



Dudley area most expensive for burial and cremations

FAMILIES FACING FUNERAL DEBTS

Report by John Corser

DUDLEY and Stourbridge are the most expensive places in the UK for a funeral, after London.

The West Midlands is the second highest priced region of the UK for funeral costs, with Dudley and Stourbridge topping the table within the region with the average costs of a funeral at £4,439.

In Rowley Regis it was just a little cheaper at £4,160. Meanwhile, the average cost across the West Midlands is now £3,977, according to research from insurance group Royal London for its national funeral cost index.

London's average funeral is estimated at £4,838 – that's £6,479 for burials and £3,198 for cremations. In the West Midlands burials average at £4,699 and cremations at £3,255. Nationally the average stands at £3,757.

In the fifth year of Royal London's research, the average cost of a UK funeral has risen by six per cent from £3,551 in 2014.

Debt

Now there are fears that funeral costs are forcing families into debt.

Individual funeral debt has increased at a much higher rate – 34 per cent – in the last five years with people now taking on an average debt of £1,744, compared to £1,305 in 2014.

Royal London's funeral cost expert Louise Eaton-Terry said: "High funeral costs in the West Midlands have left many families taking on a mountain of debt, with our research showing a huge increase in the amount being borrowed by the bereaved over the last five years."

"More support needs to be offered to families struggling to pay for funeral costs. It's shocking that the Government do not consider funeral director's fees and a coffin to be a 'necessary' cost. We want the Social Fund to cover the cost of a basic funeral, as no-one should have to struggle to give their loved ones a decent send-off."

Royal London found that nationally 12 per cent took on debt to pay for a funeral. Of those who struggled with funeral costs, 28 per cent borrowed money from friends and family and 21 per cent took on debt. One in 10 sold possessions to give their loved ones a decent send-off.

ATTENTION! AS CLOCK TURNED BACK 100 YEARS



Members of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment Living History Group in their uniforms, ready for the event at Haden Hill House

The clock will be turned back 100 years at Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath on Sunday at a special event to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War.

There will be a chance to learn more about the experiences of Great War soldiers with the Royal Warwickshire Regiment Living History Group re-enacting scenes of the time.

The Sandwell Remembers event will run from noon to 4pm at the Victorian house off

Halesowen Road. Entrance to the event is free.

Councillor Steve Trow, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for culture, said: "This is one of many events to mark the end of the war and a chance for local people to appreciate the efforts of British soldiers. Visitors will be able to learn about the soldiers' uniform, kit and weapons and what it was like to serve in often dreadful conditions in the trenches."

There will also be an old-fashioned sing-along in the drawing room with tunes from the time, such as It's A Long Way to Tipperary.

Jane Hanney, museum services manager, said: "Children can also enjoy our 'train home trail' and make a flag to wave and take home or a decorate a poppy for our remembrance wall."

For more information visit www.sandwell.gov.uk/joininmuseums or call 01384 569 444.

POLICE

Man facing kidnap and rape charges

A BRIERLEY Hill man has been charged with 13 offences including kidnap and rape. Simon Wiggins, 46, is accused of rape, sexual assault, kidnap and assault. He is due to appear at Northampton Crown Court on October 12.

The alleged offences, against three victims, were said to have happened in Dudley, Stourbridge and Northamptonshire between 1997 and 2018. Northamptonshire Police are investigating. Anyone with information is asked to contact police on 101, quoting Operation Pelican, or Crime-stoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

SEARCH

Missing student – suspects released

TWO men arrested on suspicion of murder by police searching for missing student Thomas Jones in Worcester have been released without charge.

Albion fan Thomas, aged 18, from Bromsgrove, was last seen in the early hours of September 19 close to the River Severn. He recently started a teaching course at the city's university. West Mercia Police said it remains a missing person enquiry.

COURT

Stab death accused is found not guilty

A 21-year-old man has been cleared of murdering a father who was stabbed to death on a street in Brierley Hill High Street.

Niron Parker-Lee was found not guilty of killing Mansoor Mahmood by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court on Tuesday. Mr Mahmood, 24, was knifed in the chest.

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FESTIVE FAIR COMPETITION



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I will turn hospital around, says chief



Chief executive Diane Wake - 'committed'

THE boss of troubled Russell's Hall Hospital has suggested she is the best person to turn it around, as she laid out her plans to improve services to concerned council chiefs.

Under-fire chief executive Diane Wake presented an improvement plan to Dudley Council following a damning inspection by health watchdog the Care Quality Commission, which again found the emergency department 'inadequate'.

She is expected to be grilled by council scrutiny bosses this week over failings at the hospital, which is facing a probe into the deaths of up to 54 patients.

Ms Wake has laid out her plans for delivering the required improvements, including action over sepsis, which the watchdog said doctors were struggling to identify, and increased staffing.

She said there had been a 'comprehensive staffing review' and an extra five A&E consultants had been brought in.

The hospital boss said staff in A&E had been re-trained in how to spot the signs of sepsis and manage patients who have the condition. A 'dedicated sepsis trolley' has also been introduced.

A report from Ms Wake to the council's health scrutiny committee said:

"We are absolutely committed to delivering the actions needed to ensure our patients are safe.

"A new cohort of qualified nurses commence in September 2018. A neighbouring trust is supporting us with an induction programme for new nursing starters and a training programme for all staff in the emergency department."

The borough's four MPs - Ian Austin, Mike Wood, Margot James and James Morris - have insisted change is needed at the top and called for the chair of governors, Jenni Ord, to resign.

Stab death accused is cleared of murder

A 21-year-old man has been cleared of murdering a father who was stabbed to death on a high street in the Black Country.

Niron Parker-Lee was found not guilty of killing Mansoor Mahmood, who died after being knifed in the chest in Brierley Hill. But he was jailed after admitting other offences.

The decision was reached by a jury at Birmingham Crown Court on Tuesday.

The defendant, who was standing in his second trial after the first collapsed when the jury were unable to come to a decision, had admitted inflicting the fatal stab wound on Mr Mahmood, aged 24, but claimed it was self-defence.

The pair were involved in a late-night fight on the High Street before the stabbing on October 16, 2016. Mr Mahmood managed to stagger into a takeaway but died a short time later. He leaves a wife, Aisha and two children, Isa and Awaiz.

Parker-Lee, of Blewitt Street, Pensnett, was cleared of murder after more than a year behind bars awaiting trial.

He told the court that he had not intended to 'take his life away', saying Mr Mahmood was 'coming at me' after they exchanged heated words in the street. He claimed he pulled out a knife to warn off Mr Mahmood after seeing the victim 'trying to reach for something'.

Parker-Lee told the jury: "I came under him at that time, I didn't realise he had been stabbed. Everything happened so quick. The only time I realised he had been stabbed was when I heard him screaming and saw blood."

Parker-Lee admitted possession of a bladed article, two counts of possession of a class A drug, failing to surrender at court, possession of a weapon in prison and common assault in relation to a separate incident. He was jailed for three years.

Mayor sets new fundraising record



Former mayor Councillor Dave Tyler gave £58,750 to charities after events including a dinner with Kevin Keegan

A former Mayor of Dudley has raised more than £58,000 for his chosen charities during his year in office - a borough fundraising record.

Councillor Dave Tyler handed over £58,750 to be divided between Dudley Mind, Dudley Alzheimer's Society and the YMCA, and

thanked all those who had supported his fundraising events.

These had included a charity dinner with England and Liverpool football legend Kevin Keegan and a gala ball.

Councillor Tyler's fundraising efforts beat the previous record of £55,000 by Councillor Steve

Waltho. Councillor Tyler said: "It was an honour to serve as Mayor of Dudley, alongside my wife Barbara, and to be able to help raise funds for charities which are so close to my heart."

"These organisations will be able to use this money to support people going through difficult times."

Fatal crash driver, 20, walks free from court

A YOUNG woman from Dudley who caused the death of a grandfather by driving without due care and attention left court in tears after being spared immediate detention.

A lack of experience behind the wheel may have led Emily Doyle-Gibbons - 19 at the time, now 20 - to lose control of her Ford Fiesta.

Her car crossed the carriageway and ploughed head-on into a Vauxhall Corsa, killing its driver Malcolm Aplin.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard that both vehicles were travelling at between 45mph and 55mph - within the 60mph limit - when tragedy struck on a curve at Port Lane near Brewood around 4.15pm on June 25 last year.

Mr Aplin, a 59-year-old care home owner from Tettenhall with five children and five grandchildren, suffered 'catastrophic' injuries and died at the scene.

Doyle-Gibbons, who passed her test in January 2016, was found guilty by a 10-2 majority, following a trial, of causing death by careless driving.

Hospital

She spent 15 days in hospital with a fractured foot, pelvis and wrist.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said: "You may come to the conclusion that the speed at which she was travelling, coupled with her relative inexperience, made her incapable of reacting how a more experienced driver might have done."

Mr Oliver Woolhouse, defending, suggested that a 'conflagration of small mistakes' caused her 'inability or failure' to correct the steering before it was too late after going over a drain.

Judge James Burbidge QC told her: "You well know the devastation you have caused and feel that keenly."

Doyle-Gibbons, of Warren Drive, was given six months detention suspended for two years, ordered to do 250 hours unpaid community work and banned from driving for five years.

Harvest festival events at church

BLACKHEATH Church in Long Lane is preparing for its Harvest Festival events.

On Saturday, October 6, there will be a chance to grab a bargain at a table top sale held in the church hall in Vicarage Road, from 10am to noon, admission 20p. On the following day choral evensong will be held at 6.30pm at the Long Lane church.

The family harvest service will be held on Sunday, October 14, at 10am. All church groups including Guides, Brownies, Sunday Cub and local schools will bring their harvest gifts and these will be distributed later.

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Police teams could work out of just two bases

POLICE emergency teams could be based at just two locations in the Black Country – leading to fears some areas will see slower response times.

Wolverhampton and Brierley Hill would be the only two bases with around 200 officers relocated from stations in Bloxwich and West Bromwich.

The plan would see officers start and end shifts at one of the two hubs and work remotely thanks to new technology.

But West Midlands Police Federation chairman Sergeant Richard Cooke said he was against the plan to move the response teams, which are made up of officers who react to 999 calls and round-the-clock emergencies.

Sgt Cooke said: "I think it is unrealistic to have officers leave their station and spend their whole shift out on the patch. It will mean areas like Wolverhampton will have more officers than Walsall, while places like Aldridge could see response times increase."

Walsall North MP Eddie Hughes said: "I'm really concerned about proposals to move police response from Walsall to Wolverhampton."

"Having spoken to both officers and constituents I know many people share my concerns."

Police stations closing include Sedgely, Oldbury, Tipton and Smethwick.

Gym star joins city Hall of Fame

GYMNASTICS star Kristian Thomas, who trained in Halesowen, has been inducted into Wolverhampton's Sporting Hall of Fame.

The Olympic medalist said it was a proud moment as he joined stellar names such as Billy Wright and Denise Lewis on the list.

Kristian, who has now retired, was part of one of the most successful men's gymnastics teams and went on to become household names in the sporting world. He was recognised by the city along with former cyclist Stuart Dangerfield, winter Olympian Michael Booton and Mark Farnell, the first Paralympian to make it into the Hall of Fame, inducted in front of around 100 guests at Aldersley Leisure Village.

Poems on demand

A FORMER Worcestershire Poet Laureate is visiting Stourbridge Library, to create poems on demand. Fergus McGonigal will be at the library in the Crown Centre on October 4 from 11am as part of National Poetry Day.

Tim's royal snap on awards shortlist



Prince William at Mary Stevens Park

EXPRESS & Star chief photographer Tim Thurstfield's shot of The Duke of Cambridge visiting the Black Country has been shortlisted for a top award.

His photograph of the Duke meeting the crowds in Stourbridge just last week has been shortlisted for the News Media Association's Royal Rota photography competition. The online public runs until 5pm tomorrow (Friday).

The results will be used to create a shortlist, which will be judged by a panel of industry experts to find the winners in five categories: National

Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Regional/Local Newspaper Rota Photo of the Year; Rota Picture Agency Rota Photo of the Year; Overall Rota Photo of the Year; Special Category – Rota photographs of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle together.

The E&S shot was taken when the Duke visited Stourbridge to unveil a statue of Frank Foley. Thousands of people packed into Mary Stevens Park to honour the man dubbed 'The British Schindler' because he helped save thousands of Jewish families from Nazi concentration camps. The

secret agent used his role as passport control officer for the British embassy in Berlin, as a cover to help thousands of Jews escape from Nazi Germany.

He retired to Stourbridge where he lived near Mary Stevens Park where the Duke unveiled his statue last Tuesday.

A showcase of 48 of the best photographs from Rota events is on the News Media Association's website and members of the public are invited to browse the images and vote for their favourite.

Child sex shame school teacher is sent to prison

AN assistant headteacher who spent years luring girls he believed to be as young as 10 into disgusting sexual conversations on internet chat rooms has been jailed.

Andrew Shelton, aged 51, who was a senior teacher at Harborne Primary School, admitted it gave him a 'buzz', Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

"He deliberately targeted young girls for his own gratification inciting them to sexual activity," said Mr Hugh O'Brien Quinn, prosecuting.



Andrew Shelton – indecent images

Those involved told him they were aged between 10 and 15 but none was a pupil at the school where he taught.

Shelton, from Halesowen, made contact through several chat rooms. On his laptop were found 93 indecent pictures of young girls, believed to have been sent as a result of these internet conversations. The computer showed he had been behaving in such a way since at least 2014.

In September 2015 he asked a girl, who gave her age as 13, if she wanted a weekend in Birmingham. He spoke to her about sex with older men. He told a girl he believed was aged 12 that she was 'hot and sexy as hell'.

The teacher's dirty secret was uncovered last year after he contacted a girl who said she was 13 but she was a police decoy. Officers raided his home in Woodman Close and seized his laptop.

Miss Sophie Murray, defending, said the shamed teacher, who suffers from spina bifida, had voluntarily sought help to break his 'addiction'. She added: "He has lost everything; his job, his wife, his relationship with his children. He is at rock bottom."

Shelton, who was of previous good character, pleaded guilty to seven charges of attempting to incite young girls to engage in sexual activity and one of making indecent images. He was jailed for two years and eight months.

Fancy a byte? Robot waiters on way



Fish and micro-chips? Amy and Amy Plus, the new robot waitresses from China, have arrived in Halesowen

THE next big thing in the restaurant trade could be robot waiters. A Halesowen company is preparing to supply them in the UK.

In China these robots have been an increasing feature after e-com-

merce giant Alibaba opened a chain of restaurants where human servers have been replaced.

Ayesha Ahmed, of Halesowen's Servicerobots.com, isn't expecting them to take over UK restaurants

just yet but says: "We are seeing a lot of interest in them as talking points and attractions". The first batch of Chinese-built robots have arrived at their Mucklow Hill showroom.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gnome one knows where they went

A COLLECTION of gnomes that were on show at Dudley Zoo during the 1970s and 80s have disappeared without a trace, without even a photo.

Now staff are appealing to members of the public, asking them to send in pictures of 'Gnomeland', which was populated by gnomes in a small system of caves lit by lamplight for visitors to the Castle Hill attraction.

Zoo director Derek Grove said: "People remember Gnomeland and talk about it, but there's a definite gap in our archives as we don't have a photo of the popular exhibit." Anyone with a photo of the gnomes is asked to email photos@dudleyzoo.org.uk

School expansion gets the go-ahead

PLANS for an expansion at a school for children with mild learning difficulties have been given the green light.

Cabinet chiefs at Sandwell Council gave the go-ahead for Westminster School in Rowley Regis to increase numbers from 194 to 250, including 46 places for post-16 education and 10 in the seven to 16 age group.

A report to cabinet said the school will improve opportunities of to find jobs. Councillor Joyce Underhill said: "These are badly needed places for children with moderate learning difficulties, rather than see them struggling along in mainstream schools."

Mind host mental health day event

A CONFERENCE is being held in Stourbridge to mark World Mental Health Day on October 10.

Dudley Mind is hosting the event in its wellbeing cafe Food for Thought in Victoria Street from 9.30am to 4pm.

The conference will have presentations from a number of groups working in the borough with young people.

The cost is £50 which will include drinks and lunch. Call Dudley Mind on (01384) 442938 or email enquiries@dudleymind.org.uk to book. Dudley Mind holds its annual meeting at the cafe after the conference.

Supermarket and flats plan gets green light

PLANS to build a supermarket and eight flats in Brierley Hill have been given the green light by planning bosses.

Dudley Council approved the application to build the three-storey building on currently vacant land in Moor Street.

The plan includes a supermarket on the ground floor, with eight flats above, as well as a single storey office and associated car parking.

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COUNTY NEWS

Hard rockers' gig now set in Stone

BIRMINGHAM'S latest live alternative music venue The Mill in Digbeth has announced a headline show for Walsall hard rockers Stone Broken.

The four-piece, who released their latest record Ain't Always Easy in May, will headline the venue on February 15 next year as part of their next UK tour titled Home.

A statement on The Mill's Facebook page said: "Stone Broken, presently blazing a debut tour trail across the USA, have announced their Home UK headline tour, set to take place this coming February and March, with special guests to be announced in due course."

Beer set to flow again at Fountain

A REAL ale pub is to reopen after a makeover. The new boss of the Fountain Inn in Temple Street, Lower Gornal, has begun refurbishment, including repainting the exterior.

Former Sadler's Ales operations director Bill Redwood, who is leasing the pub, hopes to have it back in operation by October 15. It closed suddenly in January.

The Fountain has twice been a winner of the Dudley and South Staffordshire Camra branch annual pub of the year competition.

Bullring is set for US Morphe's next store

AMERICAN beauty giant Morphe will open its second store in the UK this year at Birmingham's Bullring.

The store is set to open in late autumn but a date has not yet been set.

The brand currently only has an on-line presence in the UK but is opening stores in Birmingham and London. Chiefs called the Bullring the 'perfect destination' to set up shop.

Well, it's another fine film you got us into

IT looks like another fine film – judging by the first trailer for the new Laurel and Hardy movie filmed in the Black Country.

Cinemasgoers won't have to wait too long to see the film in all its glory as it gets its world premiere next month before hitting the silver screen early next year.

Steve Coogan and John C Reilly play the classic comedy duo in biopic Stan & Ollie. The film documents what would become the duo's farewell tour of the UK and shows them facing dwindling audiences while airing old grievances, battling health issues and reminiscing about the past.

Alan Partridge star Coogan plays Stan Laurel, while Ollie is played by American Reilly, who was Oscar nominated for Chicago in 2002.

Shop

The Black Country Living Museum features in the trailer with historic buildings including the Bottle and Glass Inn and the fish and chip shop visible in a shot.

Mancunian Coogan joined Reilly to film a short scene at the museum last year. Other filming locations included Birmingham's Old Rep Theatre.

Staff at the Tipton Road Museum said they were excited to see the newly released trailer. "We were delighted to see that the new trailer for Stan and Ollie features a few snippets of the museum, including our main Canal Street with the Bottle and Glass in the background as well as Hobbs' fish and chip shop," said a spokesperson.

The film gets its world premiere at the BFI London Film Festival on October 21, before general UK release on January 11.



Steve Coogan as Laurel, and John C Reilly, as Hardy, recreate the famous dance scene from Way Out West



The Black Country Living Museum features in the trailer



The stars filming at the museum in Dudley last year

'Rape' threat blackmail woman, 20, is locked up

A WOMAN from Stourbridge, who blackmailed a 'naive and vulnerable' man after tricking him into saying he would commit a rape, has been locked up.

Nadine McDonnell targeted her victim after coming into contact with him via the internet, a judge heard.

A chat online led to a meeting at which the 20-year-old McDonnell realised how unworldly he was.

In March last year she invented a friend called Kerry that resulted in him being tricked into texting something he 'deeply regretted', Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

He was then subjected to a 'campaign of blackmail' by manipulative McDonnell, said Mr Mark Stevens, prosecuting.

At the end of a 'sexually manipulative' set of conversations in more than 75 text messages exchanged on April 15 last year, he was duped into agreeing to get the defendant drunk before raping her because that was what the fictitious Kerry suggested.

Silence

Then McDonnell demanded money to buy her silence over what he had texted, forcing him to take out a £1,000 bank loan to keep her quiet.

He finally cracked after handing her more than £2,000 worth of gifts and cash, telling his mother who alerted the police.

Mr Jasvir Mann, defending, said McDonnell, of St Marks Road, who was of previous good character, was suffering from depression at the time.

McDonnell admitted blackmail and was sentenced to ten months detention.

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STOCK CLEARANCE

Leader is defending proposed tax increase

SANDWELL Council leader Steve Eling has defended his authority's proposed four per cent council tax increase, saying the authority had been left with little choice due to Government budget cuts.

Households in Sandwell have endured consecutive council tax rises over the past two years following a period of frozen bills. Now they have been told to prepare for another rise.

The likely decision for 2019/20 will be an increase of 3.99 per cent, said Councillor Eling, including one per cent to pay for social care.

Council tax for the average household in Sandwell is currently £1,535 a year, including funding for police and fire. A 3.99 per cent rise would add around £50 to the annual bill.

The leader said another increase would be necessary to 'keep the show on the road'.

Under the leader's proposals, 2.99 per cent of the rise would go towards frontline services.

"Otherwise we will get accused of under-funding services," he said. "We never raked up council tax when a number of other places did. When the freeze was on offer we took it."

He added: "We need to charge what we need to charge to keep the show on the road. It allows us to do the things like repairing roads and we're still investing in housing and leisure centres."

Shanghai show

BRIERLEY Hill-based Alloy Wire International is stepping up its expansion in the Far East by exhibiting at the Wire China industry showcase in Shanghai. The company has factories in the Black Country and Yorkshire.

Cushty! Fan buys Del Boy's watch for £28k

HE who dares Rodney, he who dares... the Black Country biggest Only Fools And Horses fan has splashed out £28,000 for an iconic prop from Britain's best loved sitcom.

Michael Enright, 47, from Gornal, has bought the pocket watch that made his hero Del Boy a millionaire in a classic episode of the hit TV show... and he even attended the auction in Dudley dressed up with his pal as Batman and Robin in tribute to a classic scene from the TV show.

The novelty prop went on sale at Aston's Auctioneers in Tower Street on Thursday, selling for almost double its anticipated price of £15,000.

Super-fan Michael could not resist the item after he read in the Express & Star that it was up for sale.

Trotter

Michael, 47, said: "Hands down my favourite thing about Only Fools and Horses is Del Boy, I live my life like him. I'm a Trotter at heart and everything I do is to be similar to him, he's brilliant."

Michael and his friend Jason Baddams came through the doors of the auction house dressed as Batman and Robin. Michael, owner of MT Skips in Dudley, said: "Jason loves the show too but the whole fancy dress thing was a last minute idea."

"Everyone at the auction house loved it when we came in all dressed up, they all had a good laugh and it was brilliant."

"My family think I'm mad, completely bonkers, but you'll never see this item again, I had one chance to



Only Fools And Horses super-fan Michael Enright, left, with the £28k pocket watch, alongside friend Jason Baddams

get it and I knew if I'd have lost out on it I'd have been gutted. It's a lot of money but it's worth it."

"At the end when I'd won the auction, a man from London who was bidding against me, came and shook my hand."

"He asked me how much I was prepared to pay for it and I said I came here to buy it, whatever the cost."

The timepiece was made by the BBC props department for the 1996 episode Time On Our Hands, which

finally saw the Trotter brothers realise their dream of becoming millionaires.

Michael, described himself as a 'huge fan' of Only Fools and Horses. "All four of my kids watch it and every single night I sit down and enjoy an episode. I'm addicted to it," he said. "You'll be hard pressed to find anyone who doesn't love the show."

"There are only two of these watches in existence so I'm definitely keeping this one safe. In 10 years I

might look at selling it on and seeing what I can get, I think I could take it back to auction now and make my money back. If I do sell it on I want to take it to Sotheby's, the auction house they used in the show."

Also at Aston's, a collection of Star Wars memorabilia including more than 600 different lots sold for just shy of £100,000 but the Boba Fett figure that was expected to fetch £2,000 went unsold. Star lot was a Princess Leia figure that sold for £1,200.

Wave green flag to vote for top park in Sandwell

THERE'S still time to vote for your favourite Sandwell green space in a national poll. Ten of Sandwell's green parks and open spaces are in the running for Keep Britain Tidy's Green Flag People's Choice Awards.

Sandwell's list of places with a Green Flag Award includes several parks, a cemetery and crematorium, as well as Sandwell Valley Country Park and community-run Warley Woods.

To vote for a Sandwell site, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/greenflag and click on your favourite to go through to the Green Flag website so you can cast your vote. The last day you can vote is Sunday, and last year Warley Woods was named in the top ten nationally.

Sandwell's ten Green Flag parks and green spaces are: Barnford Park, Oldbury; Brunswick Park, Wednesbury; Dartmouth Park, West Bromwich; Haden Hill Park, Cradley Heath; Sandwell Valley Country Park, West Bromwich; Sandwell Valley Crematorium, West Bromwich; Tipton Cemetery; Victoria Park, Smethwick; Victoria Park, Tipton; Warley Woods, Bearwood.

Council leader Steve Eling, said: "I hope that people can spare a moment to vote for their favourite in the nationwide People's Choice Awards."

South to perform some Beautiful hits

EX-MEMBERS of The Beautiful South, including Birmingham singer Alison Wheeler, perform such hits as Perfect 10, Rotterdam and Don't Marry Her at Kings Heath venue the Hare & Hounds on Friday, October 5, at The South. See hareandhoundskingsheath.co.uk

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



Clearing the air just muddies the waters

CONSULTATION (noun): the process where public authorities tell lesser mortals what they have decided to do, spend lots of money encouraging the public to have their say, and then do it anyway.

Take Birmingham's clean-air zone, for example. Motorists who bought diesel cars like the Government told us to a few years ago will soon be charged £10 a day for driving into the city centre.

Here's a prediction of how it will pan out. By the time it comes into force in 2020, businesses will have already started relocating to the edge of the ring road, just outside the zone. Vast amounts of fossil fuels will be burned constructing new office blocks, business parks, shopping centres and car parks, and concerns rise about pollution and traffic around the edge of the city.

By then, the Government will have decided that it is petrol and electric rather than diesel cars that are the problem, and introduced new taxes.

Meanwhile, concerned by the number of empty buildings in the city centre, the council spends millions on regeneration plans. Local bigwigs catch a filthy great plane to Cannes to unveil their vision at the annual planning junket – before putting it out to consultation.

OF COURSE, it's never a proper consultation without a scare story and a grim warning that 'doing nothing is not an option'. And Councillor Waseem Zaffar, the man behind the clean-air charge, certainly delivered.

"Nine hundred deaths are accelerated each year as a result of air pollution," he said. "That's not the city I want my child, or any children, growing up in."

If it saves one life, and all that. Now we don't know where Councillor Zaffar got his figures from, but it is probably the 2015 study by King's College London, which seems to be the car basher's weapon of choice at the moment. It claims that in London, one in every 1,417 lives is shortened by pollution.

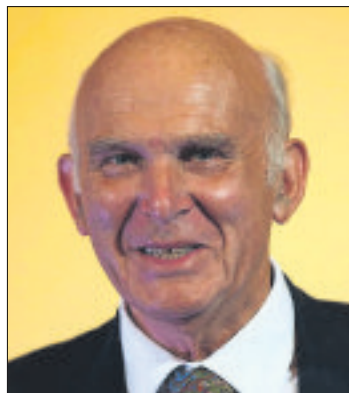
They rarely tell us, though, that the report's own authors admit to 'uncertainty in the evidence' and that 'figures are approximate and need to be used with care'. Still, why let facts get in the way of new taxes?

And while they happily quote scary figures about 'lives being shortened', they rarely elaborate on how much they are shortened by. Ten years? Five? Six months? Well actually the study estimated that if its recommendations were implemented in full, life expectancy would increase by a few hours. Bet you didn't hear much about that in consultation.

People are plumper and can't squeeze into saloons



Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker – unveiling plans on trading bloc



Sir Vince Cable – this blooper will haunt him to his obituary, and beyond



Twiggy – now in her 70th year – and tale of formal dinner next to Princess Margaret

Real reason this car is now Beetle-ing off

WHAT'S the real reason for Volkswagen ending production of the legendary Beetle? According to one report: "It was out of sync with consumers in the US where bigger cars, including crossovers and sports utility vehicles, dominate the market." The reason our roads are dominated by enormous 4x4s is not because folk live in the outback or drive off-road. It's because people are getting plumper and can no longer squeeze into saloons. In the case of the Beetle, for "out of sync" maybe instead we should really read it's "too small for fatties."

AS the campaign for a "People's Vote" rattles on, based on the claim that the British public did not understand what Brexit would mean, a reader writes: "I am watching this with interest. I am not 100 per cent sure everything was explained fully at my wedding ceremony 46 years ago."

BRITAIN'S prison system is founded on the Christian principles of penitence and rehabilitation. It is best suited to dealing with old-fashioned burglars and robbers who, if all else fails, will eventually grow out of their criminality. But a regime of rewards and early release is hopeless when it comes to dedicated jihadists who leave prison just as deranged and homicidal as they went in. Some of these religious extremists are jihadists for life. Dozens of them are coming to the end of their jail terms this year, to be released into the community they despise and have sworn to destroy.

SO here's a prediction. Before long, a jihadist freed from a British prison – and probably released early – will commit murder or mass murder. And it's not simply a question of if, but when.

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



TWIGGY entered her 70th year this week. One tabloid marked her birthday by re-telling the old tale of the formal dinner where the world-famous model was seated next to Princess Margaret, who asked her name. Twiggy replied that her real name was Lesley Hornby "but most people call me Twiggy." Turning away, the princess muttered: "How unfortunate." Two women. One a national treasure, the other a truly ghastly specimen. No prizes.

FOR those of you crying foul at the suggestion that Britain might leave the EU and then change the agreement, look at where the EU is heading, and how it is changing. The Commission president Jean-Claude Juncker has been unveiling plans to turn the Union from a mere trading bloc into a sovereign world power. The EU we are leaving is nothing like the Habsburg Empire Mk II the EU will become.

INEVITABLY, Juncker's speech included the old lie "We live on a peaceful continent, made possible by the European Union." Bunkum. Peace in Western Europe was made possible by the sacrifice of British, Russian and American soldiers and the threat of atomic weapons.

BODYGUARD (BBC1) has been a TV triumph. But the wonder is that it got beyond episode four when David Budd (Richard Madden) tried to commit suicide by putting his gun to his head and pulling the trigger. He survived, we are told,

because someone had replaced the live bullets with blanks. Don't try this at home, kids. As any old soldier will tell you, a blank can be just as deadly as the real thing. On day one of my TA recruit course all those years ago, the instructing corporal at Catterick asked for a packet of fags. One lad unwittingly handed his over. The corporal put it on the muzzle of a rifle and fired a blank. Twenty Embassy and the packaging vanished in a huge, fragrant cloud. "And that," said the corporal, as smoking bits of cardboard and tobacco fell on us, "is why you will never, ever fire a blank round directly at anybody." We only needed telling once.

THE world waited for Sir Vince Cable to deliver his much-heralded Lib-Dem Conference speech denouncing Brexiteers for wanting the "erotic spasm" of leaving the EU. Cometh the moment, Cable lost his nerve and blurted out "exotic spasm." So that's it. He's 75 and no matter what he has achieved in the past or does in the future, Sir Vince knows this blooper will haunt him to his obituary, and beyond.

RACHEL Treweek, Bishop of Gloucester says we should be "mindful of our language" in case referring to God as masculine alienates some people. She doesn't like the idea of young people hearing God constantly described as "He." The snag is that Jesus, the Bible and 2,000 years of Christian tradition all refer to God in male terms. But what the heck? The Church of England has moved so far from biblical teachings already that no-one's going to notice one more little change. Especially when hardly anyone goes to church anyway.

TALKING POINT



Catering for size seems a tall order

HOPEFULLY by the time you read this, something positive may have come of it. It relates to Louis Makepeace, the young man who claims he was denied a place at catering college because of his size.

Louis is just 3ft 10in and accused Heart of Worcester College of backtracking on offering him a definite place on a course he had set his heart upon because of his condition, called achondroplasia. The teenager claimed he was deemed a health and safety risk.

There are two sides to every story, of course, and the college said the place was still up in the air while it negotiated the necessary adjustments to its kitchens and equipment.

"We would like to state that at no point has Louis been told he could not attend his course but both Louis and Mrs Makepeace have been informed that the adjustments Louis requires will need to be agreed before an unconditional offer can be given," a statement said.

But, without a firm offer, and because of the way Louis feels he was treated, the boy has opted against enrolling anyway.

And that's such a shame that, because of the wrangle, he is unable to pursue his dream, something that all young people should be entitled to do.

The youngster claimed he is a huge fan of Gino D'Acampo and wanted to follow in his footsteps. He also said more flexibility was needed.

Under health and safety regulations, employers are expected to make the necessary amendments to cater for disabilities.

Surely society as a whole should be striving to make sure that people of all abilities can achieve their life goals.

Louis' size should not detract from his ability to do whatever is put in front of him. Sometimes, all people need is a chance to show what they can do and he wasn't being given that.

Youngsters need an aim and direction in life and cooking is something Louis loves doing. He has even shown off his culinary skills on national television since the row broke out. Sadly, other than that, it seems he has been deprived of chasing his ambition.

Yet, often, it is against all odds that real winners thrive and hopefully Louis can get the break he needs.

Celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay has been among those offering support and has said he would be willing to offer him an apprenticeship.

Louis' mother also believes she hopes something good can come of the whole saga. That's food for thought.

MARK SHIPP

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Many motorists abuse cycle lanes

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I agree cyclists shouldn't ride in pedestrian areas - which I don't - I also don't cross using pedestrian crossings.

However, whilst riding I encounter many problems which car drivers do not care

about. Many of you park in the cycle lanes which you insist we use instead of using your precious roads, which may I remind you we have as much right to use. When you're not parked in them, 70 per cent of you are driving in them. How are we meant to use them?

Does it really hurt you to drive behind a cyclist for a few minutes or allow them more room? This ignorance is what costs cyclist their lives.

KARIS WHITEHOUSE
Oldbury

Be respectful of each other

DOUGLAS Winterborn
(Letters to the Editor, September 20) should know that the vast majority of cyclists are road tax payers as they are also drivers.

Most cyclists are also insured either as individuals or with their club or cycling group through organisations such as Cycling UK or British Cycling.

Many cyclists have had additional training (eg Bikeability) to assist them when out on the road and most are suitably attired.

There are cyclists and drivers who don't pay attention to the requirements that our busy roads demand but, if road users are respectful of one another, things can only improve.

KEITH HALL
Stourbridge

Putin will exploit any weakness

WITH the confirmation that the Russian state was behind the appalling and reckless use of a deadly chemical weapon on British soil, and the continued denial of responsibility from Russia, we can only conclude we are dealing with an immoral state.

Mr Putin, like other dictators before him, believes that his country has been treated unfairly in the past.

We know from recent history that a state that feels that they have been unjustly treated are a threat to world peace and only a collective and strong response can curtail their actions.

Mr Putin will look for weaknesses in his perceived enemies. He will look for disunity and he will exploit it.

Our leaders can avoid a major conflagration if they show unity and strength. We all want peace, including the Russian people
JOHN GREEN
Sedgley

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

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Put the emphasis on people power

THE proposals for changes in Parliamentary constituencies have been criticised by sitting MPs.

These members have themselves to blame for not facing up to the fact the UK constitution is broken, not fit for purpose and needs radical reform.

A powerful driver of those voting to leave the EU was the feeling that their lives

had for too long been shaped by decisions over which they had no control.

We desperately need to downsize and refocus the House of Commons, the Lords and local government.

Power and representation for England has to be moved from Westminster to the regions

GEORGE MORRAN
Dudley

You could not make this up!

YOU couldn't make it up!

With the most serious crimewave of recent times raging on our streets, the response of the intrepid West Midlands Police Force (Soft Target Division) - clearly flushed with success from their 'test the motorists' eyesight' campaign - is to hit back hard with their 'spot the texter' campaign by deploying officers on the upper decks of buses to spy on drivers using mobile phones

Well done, lads - that'll show 'em! Peace on our streets at last.

BRYN WILLIAMS
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Alert as baby nearly taken on school run

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, September 27, 2018

A WARNING has been issued after a four-week-old baby was nearly snatched from a car in West Bromwich. A mother went to drop off her children at Ryders Green Primary School in Claypit Lane when a woman opened the car's back door and tried to unclip the baby from its seat.

The would-be abductor fled in a white van when she was confronted by the mother.

Police have been informed but so far nobody has been arrested. The suspect was not known to the mother.

Parents have been urged to report anything suspicious and a nearby school has issued a warning to pupils and parents.

Staff from Hanbury Primary School, which is a 10 minute walk away in Hanbury Road, warned children over 'stranger danger' as a result of the incident.

Lucy Blackmore, headteacher from Ryders Green Primary School, said: "We were made aware of an incident that occurred off school premises on Monday morning. This was reported to the police. We've have reminded parents and children about the importance of staying safe."

A spokesman for West Midlands Police said: "Police are investigating reports that a woman tried to take a four-week-old baby girl from a baby seat in West Bromwich on Monday."

"The woman tried to unclip the belt in Claypit Lane, Hill Top, at around 9am but was stopped by the child's mother. She is then believed to have made off in a white van. The baby was unhurt and enquiries are under way."

"We understand that this would have been a very shocking incident for the child's mother so we are asking for anyone with information to contact us via live chat at west-midlands.police.uk between 8am to midnight, call 101 anytime quoting 20SW/212584Z/18 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111."

Safer 6 returns to focus on crime prevention and lifestyle

Young Stan raises £1.5k for hospital trust

A 10-YEAR-OLD patient has raised nearly £1,500 for a hospital trust's charity - after taking on a gruelling triathlon.

The youngster from Smethwick waded through a freezing lake, completed a 1km run and a 2km bike ride - despite suffering from Henoch-Schonlein purpura.

Stan Green decided to take part in the event to raise funds for Your Trust Charity, at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, as a way of saying thank you for the care he has received. The money will go to the Paediatric Department, where he has been treated. He said: "When I was diagnosed with HSP, I never thought two years later I would be in a fit state to complete a triathlon. I even had to learn to ride a bike."

"But here I am today, having finished the challenge in 21 minutes. I'm really pleased to be able to do this."

Stan's problems started when he began suffering with cold-like symptoms. But this soon escalated and his mum Tegan rushed him to Sandwell Hospital when he complained of severe pain and developed a rash.

Tegan said: "I was worried sick that Stan had meningitis. But it was the doctors here at Sandwell who were quick to realise that he actually had HSP."

"The early diagnosis meant that he was given immediate treatment, which helped his recovery immensely."



Back row, from left, play specialist Abbie Conlon, Stan's mother Tegan Green, ward manager Joy Haywood, Stan's dad Ashley Green. Next row, staff nurse Natalie Jones, Stan Green, fundraising manager Amanda Winwood. Front, Stan's sister Flo.

SANDWELL'S autumn Safer 6 campaign is back - promoting safety, crime prevention and healthy living across the six towns in the borough.

The Safer Sandwell Partnership campaign, now in its 9th year, will officially launch at a free fun day at Haden Cross Community Fire Station, Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, on Saturday from 10am to 3pm, where there will be a range of activities and information available.

People will be able to watch live rescue demonstrations, explore fire engines, enjoy food, music, singers and circus performers and try out the go kart and 'beer goggles' experience.

There will be rides for young children and a bouncy castle. You can also find out about becoming a fire fighter.

A wide range of partner organisations, including local charities and community groups, will be promoting their services and as per usual, there will be free safety and crime prevention advice available.

Each of Sandwell's six towns will have a focus week with roadshows and activities during the six-week campaign, which runs until 11 November - for details log onto www.sandwell.gov.uk/safer6 webpage.

Sandwell Council is leading this year's campaign with support from Sandwell Police, West Midlands Fire Service and a wide range of partner organisations and community groups. Key themes are: tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; supporting young people; tackling environmental issues; working with partner organisations and local people.

Public health chief, Councillor Elaine Costigan, said: "This is about us all working together to give some extra reassurance and advice to our residents as the nights draw in and

By David Banner

getting out and about in our towns and neighbourhoods so people know what help and support is available if they have a problem."

Chief Supt Richard Baker, Sandwell Police commander and chair of the Safer Sandwell Partnership, said: "Our partner organisations work closely together day in, day out and we will be building on that during the Safer 6 campaign to help make sure our communities feel safe and protected in their homes and neighbourhoods."

Other town information roadshows include:

Tipton - Monday October 8, 10am-12noon at Asda Great Bridge, Brickhouse Lane;

Oldbury - Tuesday October 16, 1pm-3pm at Oldbury Civic Square;

West Bromwich - Monday October 22, 10am-12noon outside Poundland, Queen's Square;

Wednesbury - Tuesday October 30, 10am-12noon in Wednesbury Town Square, Union Street;

Smethwick - Monday November 5, 11am-2pm at Asda Cape Hill, off Windmill Lane;

You can also follow the campaign on Twitter using the #Safer6 hashtag.

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For more information visit www.festivegiftfair.co.uk



To enter answer the question below. Send a postcard with name, address and contact number to FGF competition, Chronicle editorial, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES. Closing date: October 5.

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Family gives out gifts in Harrison's memory

A BLACK Country family is raising money in honour of their 'happy little soul' Harrison Meekcom.

The youngster was diagnosed with a Medulloblastoma brain tumour two weeks after his second birthday and underwent a 15-hour operation at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

After 95 per cent of the tumour was removed, he then had to endure six months of chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

In a horrific turn of events, Harrison fell off a chair and banged his head, suffering a bleed on the brain.

Despite further operations and care at the children's hospital, he could not be saved and died aged two-and-a-half in August 2016.

Presents

Now, the Dudley-based family – made up of grandmother Carole Hipkiss, mother Nickola Hipkiss and father Lee Meekcom – are handing out presents to children at the hospital in memory of Harrison under the name of non-registered charity Harrison's Gifts.

Carole said: "They did everything to save him and, despite having a one per cent chance of surviving, Birmingham Children's Hospital asked for him back and did all they could to keep him alive. They operated on him again on August 23, 2016 and three days later the decision was made to turn his machine off – there was no brain activity whatsoever."

"I used to take bubbles and bouncy balls to the children's hospital and even though it's a small thing, it means the world to them."



Smiling Harrison during treatment



A patient opens an Easter gift bag



Carol and Nickola Hipkiss and Lee Meekcom with one of their gift boxes

"When we lost Harrison we wanted to give back to them and Nickola had the idea of setting up a Gofundme page at Christmas to raise money and get them presents."

"We raised about £735 that first time, and we did it again in Easter the following year."

"Since then it has just grown into

raising money any way we can and getting presents and paying for day trips to Blackpool and Drayton Manor for as many kids as we can."

"We want to keep Harrison's name alive and do it for him."

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Antiques dealer Philip dies following illness

A HIGHLY regarded antiques dealer has died in hospital following a short illness. Philip Ridgway, 71, traded at Perry and Phillips Auctioneers and The Old Mill Antiques Centre in Low Town, Bridgnorth.

Mr Ridgway died last week at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford. He dealt in antiques for 50 years throughout the Midlands and much further afield before settling in Bridgnorth in recent years.

"He was popular at all the salerooms he dealt with and was extremely well regarded for his wealth of knowledge," said John Ridgway, his brother. "Philip stepped in to help me when our brother Denis sadly passed away in 2015 and he has played a key role in managing and developing our businesses. He had run antiques stalls and shops in Wolverhampton, Stratford-upon-Avon and Bridgnorth and dealt in antiques for some 50 years before joining me at Perry and Phillips and The Old Mill three years ago."

Mr Ridgway met his wife Sandy, at an auction and they worked together until her death 12 years ago.

Lorry driver cleared of killing five fruit pickers in M6 crash

A LORRY driver from the Black Country has been cleared of causing the deaths of five fruit pickers when he ploughed into their car on the M6.

Polish national Zbigniew Grzabel wept as the jury delivered the unanimous not guilty verdicts last week.

Four women and two men were in a Nissan Micra when it was struck by the lorry driven by the 62-year-old in the early hours of May 24 last year.

The two vehicles were headed south on the M6 between junctions 15 and 14, near Stafford, at around 4.20am.

It had been alleged that Mr Grzabel failed to react to a loss of speed by the Micra. But it emerged during the week-long trial that the Micra had mechanical problems affecting the throttle and acceleration, and had twice pulled onto the hard shoulder of the motorway.

A traffic officer told the jury the car seemed to lose speed, but no brake lights were showing.

The victims, 45-year-old driver

Marius Zevian, and four passengers – his wife Cucoana Zevian, 49, Gheorghita Radu, 56, Nicoleta-Marinela Florea, 42, and 34-year-old Marcela Sandu – had been on their way to work at a fruit farm near Stafford.

Grzabel had never had an accident or points on his licence in 40 years behind the wheel, Stafford Crown Court heard.

Mr Grzabel, of Glebefields Road, Tipton, was cleared of five counts of causing death by dangerous driving and one charge of causing serious injury by dangerous driving.

Panel will choose top beer of festival

A JUDGING panel will choose a beer of the festival at Sedgley's biggest real ale event this weekend.

The sixth Sedgley Beer Festival is being held in First Sedgley Scout Headquarters, off Ladies Walk in Dudley, tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday.

A total of 36 real ales will be available for visitors to try during the festival. There will be five bands performing over the two days, including Sedgley Ukulele Strummers on Saturday afternoon and The Empty Can on that same evening.

Among the local breweries supplying beers will be Enville and Kinver, Lye's Sadler's Ales and Beowulf Brewing Company from Brownhills.

The beer festival is a charity fundraising event and proceeds will be going to Scouting, Children in Need and Cystic Fibrosis.

For more information, visit the events section on www.lovefromsedgley.co.uk.

What a grape idea for vine growers



Grape harvest time at the Halfpenny Green vineyard, near Bobbington

HALFPENNY Green Vineyards are now accepting donations of home-grown grapes for its annual co-operative scheme.

From now until late October, the vineyards at Bobbington near Bridgnorth, will be accepting grapes from the public. The grapes will then go on to be pressed and preserved to produce rosé wine. The estate will let people know when the wine is ready, which is usually around late spring the following year.

Clive Vickers, managing director, said: "People with vines in their back garden would always call up asking for advice, wondering what they could do with grapes that had grown in their back garden. Eventually we told them to bring them to us. The amount of wine available to each person is equal to the amount of grapes they bring in. For example, if a person brings in 10 kilos of grapes, they collect 10 bottles of wine."

Fruit can be bought to the winery in carrier bags, a box, or bin bags. For more information about the scheme call (01384) 221122.

Reward now £35,000 to catch arsonists

A CASH reward to catch arsonists who targeted a business has now been upped to £35,000.

Bosses from Commercial Body Fittings in Coseley originally put up a £10,000 reward but the cash on offer has now been increased in an attempt to bring the perpetrators to justice.

The gang, wearing hoodies and masks, was seen on CCTV emptying petrol into the ground-floor window of the building in Budden Road at around 12.30am, on August 6.

Firefighters managed to save the building from major damage but bosses say they are committed to ensuring the arsonists are punished for their deliberate attack.

Four people believed to have been involved were seen fleeing from the area towards the railway track. Police have launched an investigation.

Anyone with information is asked to call West Midlands Police on 101.

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14 Janet's LA rock reputation

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, September 27, 2018



Janet Robin recorded her latest album in Nashville Pic by Mary Grace McKernan

AN American guitarist who has played alongside Fleetwood Mac's Lindsey Buckingham is to perform at a Stourbridge pub.

From Los Angeles, Janet Robin performed in such legendary Hollywood venues as the Whiskey a Go Go and The Roxy with all-girl hard rock band Precious Metal in the 1980s.

She went on to become a member of Lindsey Buckingham's band and also played guitar for Meredith Brooks, Michelle Shocked and with Air Supply, also working with Ann and Nancy Wilson from Heart.

Her latest solo album Take Me As I Am was recorded in Nashville and produced by Johnny Cash's son, John Carter Cash.

She will be in concert at Katie Fitzgerald's on Thursday, October 4. Tickets are £8 on the door, or a pound cheaper from www.wegottickets.com/event/447270 or call (01384) 374410.

Fizzog dancing granny in triathlon challenge

FIZZOG comedy star Jacky Fellows has raised more than £1,000 for charity by successfully completing an Olympic-style triathlon.

Jacky, one of the Fizzogs' Dancing Grannies, swam, cycled and ran to raise money for the Cosford-based Midlands Air Ambulance.

The challenge involved swimming a mile across the Netherton Reservoir, followed by a 25-mile bike ride ending at Kinver and then running six miles to the Mitre pub in Stourbridge. Jacky, who raised a total of £1,171, said she was 'amazed' by the generosity of people throughout her training and the race.

She said: "Luckily for me, I had two volunteers who swam in front and beside me so I knew exactly where I was going."

"My goggles stayed crystal clear and the anti-chafe spray that had arrived the day before worked like a dream. Consequently, everything fell into place and the swim went brilliantly. The 25-mile bike route had been planned with fine precision by members of the Barmy Team and they joined me on the ride to the Vine in Kinver. I was joined on the run by Mark and Emma Higgins from Halesowen Running Club."

"The support throughout was brilliant with Fizzogs Sue and Deb following in the car shouting encouragement and Martin Whelan following. Paul Williams, Zita Trabbocco and Brian Flatley supported me on the ride. Julia Taylor and Julieann Whitehouse guided me through the swim."

"Mike Cartwright, landlord of the Mitre, hosted the celebrations and donated £100," said Jacky.



Jacky, centre, with fellow Fizzogs Deb Nicholls and Sue Hawkins

Trees fall as storm rages

HIGH winds caused havoc in the borough as a number of trees were felled.

Dudley Council says it responded to numerous fallen trees as Storm Ali raged last Wednesday - including one at the household waste recycling centre in Stourbridge, as well as in Amblecote Road.

Access to the recycling centre was not affected and business there con-

tinued as usual. Councillor Karen Shakespeare, cabinet member of environmental services at the local authority, said: "Our officers have made areas safe and advised any land owners where necessary."

Meanwhile, a section of roof on Debenhams in Wolverhampton's Mander Centre came away during the stormy weather.

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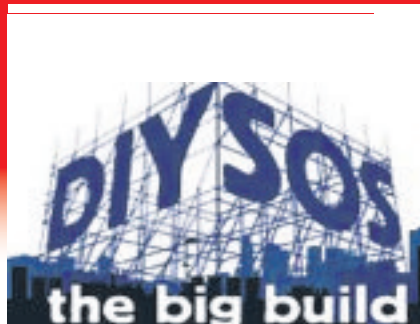
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16 £6.2m revamp earns council a national award

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, September 27, 2018

DUDLEY Council's housing services team is celebrating after scooping a national award for a multi-million pound refurbishment that has brought benefits to the health and wellbeing of tenants.

The Dudley team has won the national Association of Public Service Excellence's health and wellbeing award.

The award was in recognition of the council's recent £6.2 million refurbishment of Margaret Vine and Holloway Court sheltered housing schemes.

The project, part-funded by the Government, was designed to improve tenants' quality of life.

Two years ago the council and housing partner Jessup began a makeover of 92 apartments - installing new kitchens and adding en-suite shower facilities.

Some apartments were extended and some balconies installed. The buildings also got a heating upgrade, rewiring, lift refurbishment, new door entry system and refurbished communal areas. The council also built four bungalows on land at Margaret Vine Court.

Charity ball will raise money for Caribbean military memorial

A CHARITY ball is being held to raise money towards a lasting legacy to honour the contribution of military personnel from the Caribbean.

The National Caribbean Monument Charity is working to raise £500,000 for a monument which will stand in the grounds of the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, near Lichfield.

As part of their efforts to generate cash, members will host a ball at the National Conference Centre in Solihull on October 13.

One of the trustees of The National Caribbean Monument Charity is retired Royal Air Force Warrant Officer Donald Campbell, who lives in Tipton and finished his military career with seven years of service at RAF Cosford in 2006. He said: "This ball will be a



Donald Campbell, front, with members of the Caribbean Monument Charity night to remember and be part of our journey to make this historical monument possible. We are hoping to get as many people there as possible."

A site for the memorial paying tribute to those who fought for Britain and its colonies has been located and designs are being drawn up.

The campaign started when veteran Pauline Milnes, from London, visited the National Arboretum Memorial at Alrewas three years ago. The only mention she could find was of a 17-year-old Jamaican called Herbert Morris. Private Morris joined the 6th battalion of the British West Indies Regiment in Jamaica in 1916. He absconded after several of his comrades became casualties, was caught and executed after a court martial. He was pardoned 90 years later.

Earlier this year £2,000 was raised towards the appeal when several members took part in a sponsored parachute jump.

Planning chiefs reject scheme for 18 homes

CONTROVERSIAL plans for 18 homes in Dudley have been thrown out.

Dudley Council planning bosses said the scheme, on land near Dibdale Road and Salop Street, would have represented overdevelopment and affected the 'visually prominent' location.

Patrick Timmins, representing Blake's Sheds, a firm that had voiced opposition to the plans, felt the correct decision had been made.

He said: "There were planning safety concerns. The council have reached the right decision."

A total of 14 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom apartments would have been constructed on the vacant site, near Papa John's takeaway.

Helen Martin, chief officer of regeneration and enterprise, said: "The proposed development would encroach into an area of existing open space which forms a key characteristic of the area and by reason of the development's design, scale and layout it is considered to be detrimental to the existing pattern of development and character of the area."

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



Regular eye tests more vital than ever with ageing workforce

WITH an ageing population and record number of older people in work, Specsavers and the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) are reminding people of the importance of regular eye tests to maintain and protect their sight.

There are now more than 1.2 million Brits aged over 65 working as people continue to live longer and healthier lives. Yet research* has revealed that 250 people start losing their sight every day even though at least half of all sight loss is avoidable. Early detection is vital in the management and successful treatment of many conditions, with regular eye tests being key. But despite that, one in four people are not having an eye test every two years as recommended.

Hairy Bikers star Dave Myers has teamed up with Specsavers and RNIB this National Eye Health Week (24-30 September) to help raise awareness of the importance of eye tests. The 61-year-old was diagnosed with glaucoma seven years ago following a routine visit to the opticians. It could have affected his career, but swift detection has protected the chef's sight by enabling him to successfully manage the condition with daily eye drops.

'I was shocked because I had no symptoms, but if it had gone unnoticed, I could have gone blind. Like so many people, my career is my passion and it's so hard to imagine doing all the things I love if I couldn't see.'

RNIB interim CEO Eliot Lyne added: 'Research shows that the older you are, the greater your



chances of developing an eye condition, so it is very important that people book themselves in for an eye test every two years.

'With the right support, people with sight loss can continue working, and if you are an employer, RNIB and other organisations can help you to properly support a member of staff who is losing their sight.'

'Advances in technology mean that blind and partially sighted people can now overcome many of the barriers to work that they faced in the past, and government schemes like Access to Work mean that many of the costs can be met.'

All Specsavers optometrists are accredited in detecting and monitoring glaucoma, cataracts and other eye health conditions. To complement their skills, Specsavers and RNIB have also launched eye health training for Specsavers' non clinical teams, including optical assistants and frame stylists, to ensure that whoever a customer first sees in-store is sympathetic to their eye care needs.

* YouGov Survey commissioned by Specsavers and RNIB 23rd June -7th July 2017 of 6,430 UK adults aged 18+.

50% of sight loss is avoidable

Book an eye test at [specsavers.co.uk](https://www.specsavers.co.uk)

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The home layout is over two floors incorporating the ground and first floor with lift access. There are various bedrooms, the majority are single en-suite with some double rooms, with some bedrooms having views over the surrounding countryside.

There are four lounges to choose from, each with its own unique personality. The front lounge is located within the specialised dementia unit which has recently undergone a full refurbishment.

The garden lounge is the largest lounge in the home with a bright and airy feel with views and accessibility to the sun terrace. The room has an attractive dining area with ample seating and refreshments are available for residents and their families.

There are two quaint lounges which provide the residents with a more private, intimate and relaxing environment ideal for family visits and special occasions. The quiet lounge is located next to the nurses' office on the ground floor. The reading room is located on the first floor and provides a selection of reading material.

A spokesman said: "We would very much like you to visit Yew Tree to see for yourselves the level of service we offer. "Visitors are able to visit at any time and an appointment is not necessary. We would just ask that meal times be avoided for the privacy of the residents. These are between 12.30pm to 1.30pm and 5.00pm to 6.00pm."

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Email: info@yewtreenursinghome.co.uk

Web: www.yewtreenursinghome.co.uk/

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Bagging vintage bargains at auction

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



MANY women today seem to be lugging around large handbags full of all kinds of items – but in days gone by these bags tended to be rather smaller and contain different essentials.

Of course the ladies of yesteryear didn't have laptops or mobile phones to contend with – or different pairs of shoes – and so their handbags were needed only for powder compacts, lipsticks, cigarette cases, slimline purses and so on.

And these essential handbag items are very collectable today, reminiscent as they are of elegant days gone by.

Power compacts in particular are a collector's favourite and there are numerous designs to choose from.

The older the compact the more valuable it will be because they generally have been kept either in a handbag or on a dressing table they are usually in very good condition.

Some compact collectors will buy a certain style, such as Art Deco, or go for those branded with recognised names like Stratton and Kigu.

Vintage lipstick holders are another real favourite and if you're lucky – and have enough money! – you can still buy beautiful ones made in gold and silver, some even decorated with rhinestones.

Van Cleef and Arpels made some stunning lipstick cases but others were manufactured for buyers with more modest budgets and these can be found today available at very reasonable prices.

Cigarette cases and holders are also popular with auction-goers and again they vary in price according to quality and design.

The most elegant cases were made by the likes of Chanel and Yves Saint Laurent and these are very much sought after in the saleroom today.

Some people are fascinated by the elegance of vintage handbag essentials and decide to collect a variety in different styles and designs, others opt for one particular era or designer.

They do look lovely on display and a nice collection will definitely appreciate in value as the years go by.

See you at the next sale of antiques and collectibles!

*** The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables will take place at the Mill Street saleroom, Low Town, Bridgnorth on Tuesday, October 2, from 10.30am.**

*** Viewing is during the weekend and on Monday prior to the sale and catalogues are available from the saleroom or online at www.perryandphillips.co.uk. Newcomers to the auction should arrive in plenty of time to register and be allocated a bidding number and bids may be made (by prior arrangement) over the phone or left with the auctioneer.**

*** Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.**

Counting the cost of school sporting activities



Football is one of the more popular sports

CHILDREN are taking up new sports this school year which is increasing the price of back to school as parents fork out for sports clothing and equipment, according to new research.

A survey of more than 7,600 UK adults published by Decathlon in the Decathlon Activity Index 2018, shows that parents spend £54 on average on sports clothing and equipment per child, ahead of the new school year.

In fact, 86 per cent of those surveyed said that their keen kids will take up a new sport this year at school.

The research shows how the cost correlates to the amount of sports kids take up, with children picking up three sports on average per school year.

Even more surprisingly, more than one in seven (29 per cent) said that their child would take up five or more sports at the start of the new academic year.

When quizzed on the sports and physical activities their children intend to take part in during the new

academic year, the majority of respondents cited swimming and football as activities their child will take part in. This was closely followed by running with more than one in five intending to take part in this form of exercise during the new school year.

Tennis was also a popular sport that children intend to pick up, coming in fourth place.

Exercise

Fitness rounded off the list of the top five sports and forms of exercise a child intends to get involved with at the start of the new school year.

Philippe Rebelo, UK marketing director at Decathlon said: "It is clear that back to school is an expensive time for many parents, but the research shows just how much is spent on sports clothing and equipment alone.

"This highlights just how quickly the cost of back to school can mount up for parents, especially if you have

more than one child in school.

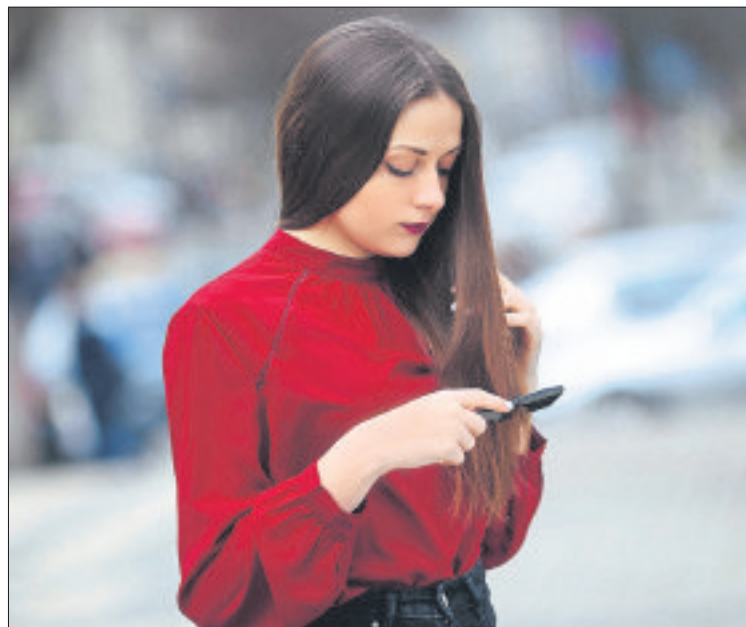
Mr Rebelo said: "However, it is important to get children to take part in sports at school, so they can form healthier lifestyles and help grow their team building skills. There are also plenty of affordable options on the market for parents to choose from and ensure their kids are kitted out for a variety of sports and activities at school, so that youngsters don't miss out."

Top 10 sports or forms of exercise kids plan to take part in during the new academic year:

- * Swimming – 38 per cent
- * Football – 38 per cent
- * Running – 20 per cent
- * Tennis – 17 per cent
- * Fitness – 16 per cent
- * Athletics – 16 per cent
- * Gymnastics – 14 per cent
- * Dance – 14 per cent
- * Cycling – 14 per cent
- * Karate – 14 per cent

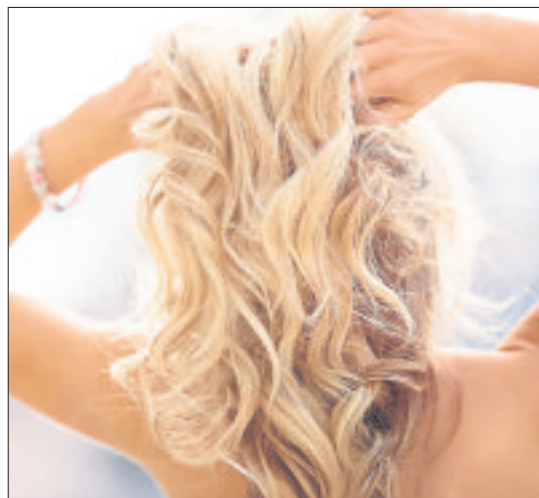


Towns are hit by pollution as well as big cities



Take time out to take the necessary steps to protect your hair

Pollution in towns can make for a bad hair day



Pollution can have a damaging impact on your locks

URBAN living – it's not without challenges is it?

When days start with a crammed commute, lunchtimes are non-existent and your so-called nine-to-five-job is more like seven-to-11, it can be hard to keep your stress levels in check.

And that's only the palpable problems – don't forget that pollution lurking in the air is causing lung problems and early deaths, according to the World Health Organisation.

What's this got to do with beauty? Well, it turns out that pollution may be the cause of bad hair days, as well as poor health.

And it's not just big cities that are affected, either.

A recent WHO report found that 30 places in the UK exceeded a crucial 10 micrograms of pollutants per cubic metre measure.

Scunthorpe showed the highest levels, and destinations including Gillingham, Carlisle and Chester came in the top ten, alongside larger cities like Manchester, Leeds and Liverpool.

"If you live in a city and your hair is feeling dull and dry, or you've developed an itchy scalp, then pollution could be to blame," says Nick Irwin, global development director of Muk haircare.

"In the same way pollution can affect the skin, it affects the hair. Depleting the body of certain nutrients can affect hair growth and condition, plus,

Report by Katie Wright

with pollutants literally sitting on the hair, it can look dull and dry."

"Air pollution can significantly damage your hair in a number of ways," explains Betsy Patel, chemist from Living Proof.

"Exposure to air pollution can damage the proteins in hair, making it more susceptible to breakage and further damage. Oil droplets and solid particles can adhere to your hair, so the result – in some instances – is that your hair can feel noticeably rougher."

So, what can be done to prevent the effects of pollution – aside from relocating to a rural idyll?

"Washing your hair regularly will wash off the pollutants on your hair, so make sure you use a shampoo and conditioner for your hair type," Irwin advises.

"Cleansing your hair properly is so important," Patel agrees. "You don't want to wash your hair too frequently, because this can strip your hair of its natural oils and further perpetuate that damage, but you do want to be able to remove all of the small particles and oil droplets."

As a preventative measure, look for masks or styling products with "restorative benefits that can help reveal the cuticle and strengthen the cortex," Patel advises. To treat an itchy scalp, choose a shampoo with soothing and clarifying ingredients, like charcoal or echinacea.

Exploring royal roots of ballet

Birmingham Royal Ballet's Fire & Fury programme, staged at Birmingham Hippodrome from October 3 to 8, features two ballets fuelled by power and politics.

The King Dances, choreographed by BRB company director David Bintley, looks at the very beginnings of ballet at the court of the young King Louis XIV of France.

The other half of the programme, Juanjo Arqués' Ignite, demonstrates that the flames of the art form still burn brightly.

In The King Dances, Bintley recreates the spectacular proto-ballet when the king of France danced the role of the Sun God in a spectacular court entertainment, earning his label The Sun King.

But beneath the veneer of the glittering and fashionable court lies a desperate struggle for power between the young king and his mentor, Count Mazarin.

Inspired by ballet's very first steps, an all-male ensemble displays virtuosity in this powerful and compelling piece.

Ignite by Arqués has been commissioned as part of Birmingham Royal Ballet's pioneering Ballet Now talent development programme, and features brand new designs from Tatyana Van Walsum and a score from Kate Whitley, co-founder of The Multi-Story Orchestra.

Inspired by Turner's painting 'The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons', Ignite translates vibrant colour into atmospheric and symbolic choreography.

Scott Matthews – his version of the blues has won fans



The best is yet to come

Wolverhampton's Scott Matthews, the Ivor Novello-winning songwriter, has toured with Foo Fighters, played Sydney Opera House and thought about calling his band The Wanderers in honour of his favourite football club.

The performer who grew up on a diet of Led Zeppelin before breaking through with hit single, Elusive, is seven albums into his career.

Tomorrow (Friday), local fans will get a rare chance to see an intimate home city gig when the 21st century bluesman headlines Newhampton Arts Centre.

Matthews has been on the road for years but in the past year or so things have changed, he's become a father and recently married his long-term partner, Sally. Married life suits him.

"It's all changed," he laughs, from his home just north of the city. "Since Elliott came along, it's been a sort of wonderful chaos. On

reflection, I probably wouldn't have released a record this year had I known."

Elliott was the inspiration for his most recent album, The Great Untold – a collection of songs that were stripped back, lyrically insightful and brimful of emotion.

"The feedback from the hardcore fans has been brilliant. They seem to think it's my best album yet," he adds. "But I don't feel I've put my best work out yet. I still believe the best is yet to come."

Symphonic sounds from the movies

Symphony Hall in Birmingham hosts spectacular shows with a movie theme this autumn, plus a Last Night at the Proms style extravaganza.

Symphonic Fantasy on October 19 features music from Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, the Harry Potter and Pirates of the Caribbean movies. This will be performed by the London Concert Orchestra and Canzonetta choir.

The London Concert Orchestra return on November 9 for The Music of Stars Wars And Beyond, a sci-fi spectacular with lasers and indoor fireworks to accompany music from ET, Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Alien, Jurassic Park, Inception, Star Trek and, of course, Star Wars.

The music of Ol' Blue Eyes will be celebrated when Simply Sinatra, a Sunday matinee concert on November 18, features a 27-piece band with dancers and singers Matt Ford and Victoria Hamilton-Barritt.

Following sold out success last year, Spectacular Classics is back for Saturday matinee and evening performances on November 10. The city of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Choir, conducted by Anthony Inglis, will perform such Prom favourites as Rule Britannia and Land of Hope and Glory in a programme of popular classics. The highlight will be an explosive 1812 Overture complete with indoor cannon and fireworks finale.

For tickets see www.thsh.co.uk or call 0121 780 3333.

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A spokesman said: "We have to offer, a carvery with a choice freshly roasted meats accompanied by a wide variety of fresh locally sourced vegetables.

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"Sumptuous breakfast, tasty lunch and sexy dinners. Stop by for our varied menu and enjoy our farm to table concept."

The pub is open daily between Sunday and Friday, from 12pm and

8pm and Saturday from 12noon to 9pm.

Breakfast is available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday between 8.30am and 11am.

The spokesman added: "Whether it's brunch, lunch or dinner you're joining us for, call to reserve your table on (01562) 850311."





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COMMERCIAL FEATURE

MUSICAL TREATS IN THE NEW WELLINGTON



Musical fans from across the region are rubbing their hands together for a musical extravaganza with Live Entertainment Friday and Saturday Night.

The New Wellington in Brettell Lane, Brierley Hill, is not only treating its patrons to great entertainment it is also a great place to eat, drink and socialise.

Set on the main Stourbridge to Dudley Road, not far off Brierley Hill high street, the venue offers a carvery all day everyday from 12 noon to 8pm with a selected main menu from 5pm. With Kids eating Free throughout the school holidays. T's & C's apply

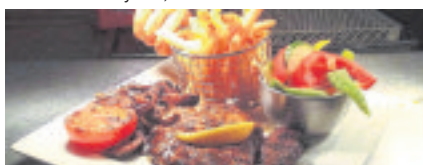
For the early started amongst us they also offer a buffet style all you can eat breakfast from 8am to 11am, which has been brought back by popular demand.

The New Wellington also offers a Disco and Karaoke every Friday night, So why not come down and have a sing along!!

New to 2018 - 9 newly refurbished rooms for accommodation, so also now offer B&B at very competitive prices.

Call direct or book online for price and availability.

The New Wellington, 383 Brettell Lane,
Brierley Hill, DY5 3LQ 01384 76066



AT YOUR LEISURE

The star cast for Peter Pan



Peter Pan set to dazzle panto fans at Hippodrome

A swashbuckling production of Peter Pan will dazzle tens of thousands of pantomime-goers this festive season.

It marks the panto debut of Essington-raised comedian, actor and writer Meera Syal, who will play a Mermaid in the production at Birmingham Hippodrome, from December 19 until the end of January.

The show's all-star cast also includes returning favourite Matt

Slack, back for his sixth successive Hippodrome stint, plus boyband star Jaymi Hensley, from Union J, and the youngest of 70s stars the Osmond brothers, Jimmy Osmond, as Captain Hook.

Rehearsals started last week and producers promise it will be the UK's biggest and best pantomime.

Matt Slack said: "People always ask me how are we going to top the show from the previous year. Well, last year's was certainly great, with a brilliant cast, but this year's really is

going to be exceptional. We've got a lot of surprises in store."

Jimmy Osmond added: "I've done eight pantomimes and this will be the biggest."

"I'm delighted to be back in Birmingham. I always enjoy a very warm reception when I come here. I've had some great times in the city over the years, playing concerts and appearing at the Hippodrome in Chicago and Grease. So it's wonderful to be back. It feels like home."

Chris has got Organisation to bring blues to Bilston

Blues and soul bassist Chris Bevington brings his Organisation to Bilston's Robin 2 venue on October 3.

The current line-up of this highly popular nine-piece outfit features Jim Kirkpatrick from FM, plus the Vocals of Kate Robertson and Sarah Miller from Nearly Dan, and the vocal and guitar talents of Scott Ralph. The band also feature Adrian Gibson (trumpet) and Mike Yorke (sax).

The Chris Bevington Organisation released a third album Cut And Run this year. The LP features 12 original tracks written and produced by Scott Ralph and Jim Kirkpatrick and will be available on digital, CD and Vinyl.

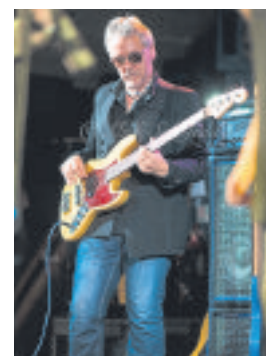
Chris said: "I must say that I am very lucky to work with such

a wonderful team of musicians. Everyone has worked so hard preparing their individual parts and giving all their time, love and effort.

"The collaboration has created a truly unique band album and sound. It's just brilliant. So now our job is complete and it's time to let you hear it and we really hope you like it - and turn the volume up!"

Advance tickets cost £10 or £12 on the door. Birmingham's self-styled boogie woogie babe, pianist Emma Jonson, is supporting. See www.therobin.co.uk or call 01902 401211.

Meanwhile, on Saturday Brian Downey's Alive and Dangerous play the Robin when the Thin Lizzy drummer will be joined by Irish rockers Matt Wilson, Phil Edgar and Brian Grace.



Chris Bevington

Arenacross will roar back in the new year | Pop getting personal with Christine/Chris

It's back, bigger, louder, faster than ever before - the spectacular Arenacross Tour returns for 2019 with the fast-paced show coming to Birmingham, roaring into the Genting Arena on February 1 and 2.

The UK's fastest indoor show promises the craziest indoor motocross racers and freestyle MX stars from across the globe.

Matt Bates, CEO of ASL Active, who produce Arenacross, says "Arenacross never fails to entertain huge audiences year after year and, as we enter our seventh year of staging the tour, we're more excited than ever to continue growing our audience of AX fans. Arenacross isn't just indoor motocross, it's an entire night of choreographed entertainment that includes a great soundtrack, pyro, lasers and live screen back-stage action."

Tickets are on sale via www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 3388 222. Calls cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Ticket prices vary.

Christine and The Queens released second album, Chris, last week and will be coming to Birmingham as part of a UK tour in November.

Chaleur Humaine was the UK's biggest-selling debut album in 2016 and it's eagerly-awaited sequel is unlikely to disappoint with its quirky, twitchy electro-pop, exploring gender politics and the sense of being an outsider with the invention of masculine alter-ego Chris.

"Chaleur Humaine was about teenage years, most of it," says Heloise Letissier, AKA Christine/Chris. "The second album could have been me finding a fancy producer in LA and doing the pop s**t but actually, no, I wanted to make it even more personal."

The Nantes-born singer's voice is more powerful and the songs even more infectious, particularly hit song Girlfriend, and other key tracks include Doesn't Matter, 5 dollars, What's-her-face and Make some sense.

Christine and The Queens play the O2 Academy in Birmingham on November 26 and it is likely to be a sell out.



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CRACKERS ROCKIN 88'S**

**SAT 6/10
THE HYPE**

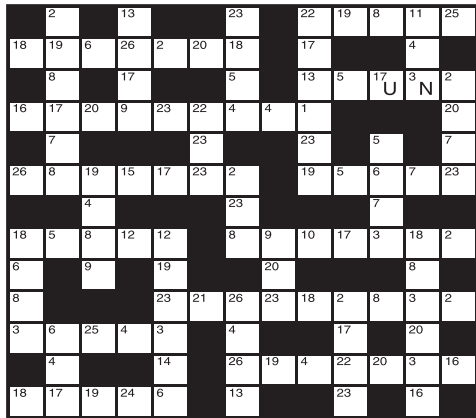
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Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
C	L	T	X	I	M	S	G	F	N	R	V	Z
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
K	E	U	O	Y	A	W	D	Q	J	P	B	H

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues – both fit the same grid.

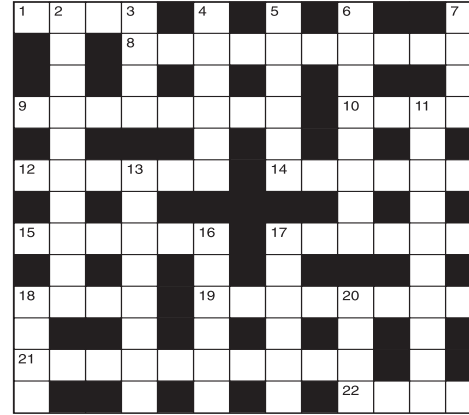
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. Restrain dog with big head (4)
8. Voters choose to speak (10)
9. Setback with furniture can be examined (8)
10. Thus return publicity for chemical (4)
12. Puts back part of organ in dazed state (6)
14. Not being impartial with short branch line (6)
15. Streak round person on ice (6)
17. Is in a hurry to get water-plants (6)
18. Little bird tells us he was a great architect? (4)
19. Hatchet used by boy on a bird of prey (8)
21. Mobilise forces with an affectionate summons to infant? (4,2,4)
22. Carry off girl from 15 when upset (4)

Down

2. Funeral director doesn't have a big enough income? (10)
3. Win against 7 (4)
4. I object to doctor having hesitation in becoming society man (6)
5. Not leaving the birds alone in Greece (6)
6. Has bias beforehand, but still takes the chair (8)
7. Gamble on a letter from 5, perhaps (4)
11. Sheer drudgery despite university teacher having answer book (6-4)
13. Obviously keep busy round a temporary home (8)
16. Iran to share (6)
17. Notice correct work again (6)
18. It's almost sinful, but it keeps the flame burning (4)
20. Lots of people and an entertainer (4)



Quick Clues:

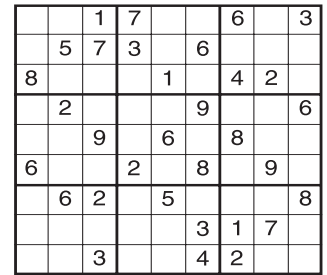
Across

1. Slight quarrel (4)
8. Luxuriance (10)
9. Motherly (8)
10. Sickle (4)
12. Chastise (6)
14. Soften (6)
15. Brigand (6)
17. Die (6)
18. Spool (4)
19. Rapturous (8)
21. Belligerent (10)
22. Curse (4)

Down

2. Spotless (10)
3. Gala (4)
4. Extinguish (6)
5. Hawker (6)
6. Single man (8)
7. Look for (4)
11. All-knowing (10)
13. Lazy (8)
16. Ditch (6)
17. Clergyman (6)
18. Thick cord (4)
20. Too (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	2	8	6	5	9	4	3	1
6	1	3	7	2	4	9	8	5
4	9	5	8	3	1	7	2	6
9	3	4	5	8	7	6	1	2
8	5	1	4	6	2	3	9	7
2	6	7	1	9	3	5	4	8
3	7	2	9	1	5	8	6	4
1	4	6	3	7	8	2	5	9
5	8	9	2	4	6	1	7	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 7 Lemon; 8 Profuse; 9 Houdini; 10 Outer; 12 Stagnation; 15 Shape badly; 18 Shout; 19 Rawhide; 21 Desists; 22 Tiara. Down: 1 Alchemists; 2 Amour; 3 Anti; 4 Spring; 5 Monorail; 6 Curtail; 11 Run like mad; 13 Treatise; 14 Papoose; 16 Arrest; 17 Vicar; 20 Wits. QUICK - Across: 7 Obese; 8 Elation; 9 Kingdom; 10 Tramp; 12 Particular; 15 Peccadillo; 18 Rally; 19 Arduous; 21 Astride; 22 Sight. Down: 1 Bookkeeper; 2 Means; 3 Lend; 4 Permit; 5 Nautical; 6 Disable; 11 Perversity; 13 Analysis; 14 Acolyte; 16 Images; 17 Tough; 20 Dash.

Quiz

1. Which screenwriter won Oscars for Dr Zhivago and Lawrence of Arabia?
2. What is a conger?
3. In Greek legend, who was Electra's brother?
4. Of which city's council was Derek Hatton deputy leader?
5. Of which fictional character is George Frampton's statue in Kensington Gardens?

6. Gyres are large-scale rotations of what?
7. Of what is the dogfish a species?
8. Which space probe made the first fly-by of Venus?
9. What was Jerome K Jerome's middle name?
10. In which US state were the Mormons founded?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 White blood cell; 2 Mir; 3 London; 4 Ultra high frequency; 5 Doug McClure; 6 Rodent; 7 Danish; 8 Edward Jenner; 9 Oglala Lakota (Sioux); 10 Ejector seat.

Niner: GLADSTONE

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

51987
3878
64229

gives Saudi currency,
gives Samoan currency,
gives a small coin.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Celebrations at restaurant

The Bangla Lounge restaurant has recently celebrated its 15th anniversary with a party, delicious food and guests dancing the night away.

Bangla Lounge has been serving the Halesowen area for 15 years.

Originally set up in 2003 by owner Bari's family, the business has gone from strength to strength.

A spokesman said: "As you enter you are welcomed by a magnificent setting and a delightful marriage of classic and luxurious modern – a wonderful comfortable experience.

"The menu offers a wide variety of mouth-watering dishes from red hotGoa to cool Kashmir. On



the new 2018 menu, new dishes include South Indian garlic lamb or chicken, Dhabba Murgh, as well as exclusive house specials Tamarind king prawns, chicken makhani and home-made lamb dish.

"There are plenty of dishes for vegetarians and fish lovers." All food is made freshly cooked on order and chefs take great

care in selecting the best quality ingredients. The restaurant also offers a large selection of wines and beer from around the world.

Although Bangla is licensed, they are running a special promotion until December 1. You can bring your own drinks when you are ordering off the main menu.

If you are planning a celebration, the restaurant's upstairs function room can cater for up to 40 guests and is ideal for work parties, birthday celebrations or anniversaries. Takeaways are available and home delivery service is free within a three-mile radius. To book a table call 01215857020 or email: info@banglaloungehalesowen.co.uk



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AT YOUR LEISURE

CHOICE



Claudia Winkleman (left)

Strictly Come Dancing (BBC1, 6.30pm)
Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the celebrities take to the dance floor once again. This week, the pressure is really on, with viewers given the chance to vote for their favourite couples for the first time. As ever, judges Shirley Ballas, Bruno Tonioli, Darcey Bussell and Craig Revel Horwood will be offering their own unique words of wisdom and waving their scoring paddles. None of the duos will want to be the first to leave, but one of them will be waltzing off into the sunset when the results are announced tomorrow evening.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Raymond Blanc: How to Cook Well. (R) **12.00** Football Focus. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. **2.00** Cycling: Road World Championships. Jill Douglas introduces live coverage of the latter stages of the elite women's road race from Innsbruck, Austria, with the riders snaking across the Alps in pursuit of the title. **4.00** Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results and this afternoon's news from the Premier League, EFL and Scotland. **5.20** BBC News. **5.30** Regional Programme. **5.40** Pointless Music Day Special. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a special BBC Music Day edition of the general knowledge quiz, featuring Lianne La Havas, Shaun Keaveny and Amy Macdonald. **6.30** **Strictly Come Dancing.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman present as the celebrities take to the dance floor once again, with viewers given the chance to vote for their favourite couples for the first time. **8.35** **Casualty.** Ruby and Iain are less than pleased to be working a shift together and their day goes from bad to worse when they are pranked by a group of children and have to deal with an emergency labour. Duffy confides in an old flame. **9.25** **Killing Eve.** Villanelle lures Eve to Berlin by using the agent's name while carrying out the murder of a Chinese army colonel, and trails the MI5 officer as she and Bill investigate the killing. While Eve and Bill chase up a number of promising leads, Villanelle enjoys the cat-and-mouse nature of their proximity. But as they draw closer, Eve comes to realise that this is much more than just a game. Spy thriller, starring Jude Comer. **10.10** **BBC News:** Weather; National Lottery Update. **10.30** **Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Chelsea v Liverpool at Stamford Bridge and West Ham United v Manchester United at London Stadium. **12.00** The NFL Show. Mark Chapman is joined by Osi Umenyiora and Jason Bell to present highlights of Thursday night's game - Los Angeles Rams v Minnesota Vikings at Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum. **12.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.30 Top Class. (R) **7.00** Marrying Mum and Dad. (R) **7.30** All Over the Place: Europe. (R) **8.00** The Dengineers. (R) **8.30** Absolute Genius with Dick & Dom. (R) **9.00** Planet Dinosaur. (R) **9.30** Elephant Diaries. (R) **10.00** The Animal's Guide to Britain. (R) **11.00** Natural World. (R) **12.00** The Incredible Spice Men. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Tom Kerridge's Proper Pub Food. (R) **2.30** Scrappers - Back in the Yard. (R) **3.00** Saving Lives at Sea. (R) **4.00** Cycling: Road World Championships. Further live coverage from Innsbruck, Austria. **4.55** Trust Me, I'm a Doctor. (R) **5.25** Monkman & Seagull's Genius Guide to Britain. (R) **5.55** Dad's Army. (R) **6.30** **South Korea: Earth's Hidden Wilderness.** Documentary exploring the wildlife, traditions and landscape in the country's rural areas. The programme features footage of dolphins swimming alongside conch divers in the volcanic islands of Jeju, a falconer flying a goshawk in the country's mountainous forests, and racoon dogs hunting for cicadas that only emerge from underground once every five years. (R) **7.30** **Princess Margaret: The Rebel Royal.** Part two of two. Experts analyse the Princess's marriage to Lord Snowdon at the start of the 1960s as the VIPs ride the wave of a cultural revolution. (R) **8.30** **Golf: Ryder Cup Highlights.** Eilidh Barbour presents action from day two of the 42nd Ryder Cup from the Albatros Course of Le Golf National near Paris, where Europe took on USA. The United States ended a run of six defeats in seven Ryder Cups with a dominant home victory two years ago, but they have not won in Europe since 1993. With commentary from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Ned Michaels. **10.30** **Live at the Apollo.** Dane Baptiste presents stand-up comedy from the Hammersmith Apollo in west London, introducing sets by Desirée Burch and Chris McCausland. (R) **11.00** **Later... with Jools Holland.** **12.05** Gareth Malone's All Star Music Quiz. **12.35** **Film:** Department Q: The Keeper of Lost Causes. (2013) **2.05** Trust. (R) **3.00** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: On Nom Stories. (R) **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Spy School. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** James Martin's Saturday Morning. **11.40** The Martin Lewis Money Show Live - Christmas Countdown. (R) **12.50** The Island Strait. (R) **1.20** The X Factor. (R) **2.20** ITV News; Weather. **2.30** WOS Wrestling. **3.30** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** ITV News; Weather. **5.45** Regional Programme; Weather. **5.55** **Film:** Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. (2005) Fantasy adventure, starring Daniel Radcliffe. **8.35** **The X Factor.** The competition reaches a new level as the dramatic Six Chair Challenge returns, promising amazing performances alongside agonising decisions for judges Robbie Williams, Ayda Williams, Louis Tomlinson and Simon Cowell, as they must each decide on the final six acts they will take through to their judges' House. However, even if they win a seat, the contestants face an anxious wait as no one is safe until the last person in each category has sung. Each judge is able to change their mind at any point, swapping an act already through with someone else who comes on and out-performs them. Presented by Dermot O'Leary. **10.05** **The Jonathan Ross Show.** The host chats to The Great British Bake Off stars Paul Hollywood, Prue Leith and Noel Fielding, as well as comedian Mo'Nique. With music from Olly Murs. **11.10** **ITV News:** Weather. **11.30** **Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army.** (2008) The demon hero battles a renegade elf prince, who plans to reawaken an unstoppable robot army and destroy mankind. Action fantasy sequel, starring Ron Perlman and Selma Blair. **1.25** **Jackpot247.** Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team. **3.00** Long Lost Family. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The King of Queens. (R) **6.40** The King of Queens. (R) **7.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** Come Dine with Me. (R) **12.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **1.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.25** Four in a Bed. (R) **2.55** Four in a Bed. (R) **3.25** The People's Vet. **4.30** Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **6.30** **Channel 4 News.** **7.00** **Britain at Low Tide.** Tori Herridge explores the Severn Estuary, investigating a mysterious ruin on a bleak island. Along the coast she visits the site of the medieval village of Sudbrook, which simply disappeared into the sea, and finds out how important the ferry crossing at Aust was during the 20th century. The presenter also investigates the story behind the very first attempt to build a tunnel underneath the Severn. At the moment, all this archaeology is available to anyone to see, but rising sea levels and coastal erosion mean it won't be long before it's all swept away. (R) **8.00** **Britain's Most Historic Towns.** Alice Roberts explores the UK's past through the stories of its towns, examining key periods in history by delving into the secrets of places that encapsulate them. In the first episode, Alice tells the story of Roman Britain by studying the history of Chester. She enjoys an authentic Roman feast, heads deep underground to check out an extraordinary archaeological find, and explores a radical theory regarding the Romans' plans for Chester. (R) **9.00** **Film: Lucy.** (2014) A courier is kidnapped and forced to become a drug mule. When she is exposed to the experimental chemicals she is smuggling, it boosts her intelligence and reflexes to superhuman levels. She uses her newfound abilities to get revenge on her captors, but as the process continues, she evolves into something more than human. Sci-fi thriller, starring Scarlett Johansson and Morgan Freeman. **10.45** **Film: Non-Stop.** (2014) **12.45** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **1.35** Experimental. (R) **2.30** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.35** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. (R) **5.30** Buy It Now. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **10.45** The Wonderful World of Puppies. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.30** **Film:** King Kong. (2005) Fantasy adventure remake, starring Naomi Watts. **3.30** Access. **3.35** **Film:** King Kong. (2005) Concluded. **6.05** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Stewart and Vic take on an eviction case in Nottingham, where they find a volatile tenant who refuses to back down. The duo also chase £5,000 for an unpaid parking fine. (R) **7.35** **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away!** Matt and Garry try to recover more than £6,000 owed in nursery fees in Warwickshire, while Gary and Cona chased £11,000 owed by a businessman in West Sussex. (R) **8.30** **5 News Weekend.** **8.35** **Albert: The Power Behind Victoria.** Drama-documentary following the life of Queen Victoria's husband, examining his role as a driving force behind the industrial revolution, a leading influence on British culture, and a campaigner for the welfare of the country's working class communities. As nine pregnancies took their toll on the queen's health, Albert was driven to take up a far more active role until his early death at the age of 42. **10.40** **Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family.** Following the story of the monarch after the death of her husband Albert, examining how her children rebelled against their mother one by one. (R) **11.40** **Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family.** How Victoria struggled to perform her duties as a monarch and a mother throughout the 1860s, until she found a new influence in her life that relieved her depression. (R) **12.35** Queen Victoria and Her Tragic Family. (R) **1.30** SuperCasino. **3.10** Hunted and Confronted: Rogues and Raids. (R) **4.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Monkey Planet **8.00** Big Cats **9.00** Mystery Road **10.40** Inside No 9 **11.40** Top of the Pops: 1986 **12.40** Roots, Reggae, Rebellion **1.40** Monkey Planet **2.40** Big Cats **3.40** Close **ITV2**
12.00 The X Factor **1.05** You've Been Framed! **2.05** **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.15** FYI Daily **3.20** **Film:** The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **3.55** **Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **4.55** FYI Daily **5.00** **Film:** Despicable Me (2010) **5.50** **Film:** Yes Man (2008) **6.55** FYI Daily **7.00** **Film:** Yes Man (2008) **7.45** **Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **8.45** FYI Daily **8.50** **Film:** Quantum of Solace (2008) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.15** Through the Keyhole: I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here! **2.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **2.45** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen **ITV3**
12.50 Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.55** Lewis **9.00** Endeavour **11.00** Vera **1.00** On the Buses **1.55** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV4**
1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Newmarket. Coverage of the day's races at Newmarket and Haydock Park. **4.00** **Film:** Tobruk (1967) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** **Film:** Tobruk (1967) **6.10** Made in Britain **7.15** **Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **8.15** FYI Daily **8.20** **Film:** Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) **9.00** **Film:** Rocky V (1990) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** Rocky V (1990) **11.10** **Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **12.10** FYI Daily **12.15** **Film:** Hard to Kill (1990) **1.15** Better Late Than Never **2.05** The Americans **2.55** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**
11.35 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.00** The Big Bang Theory **3.00** The Great British Bake Off **4.15** The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice **5.20** Extreme Cake Makers **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** A Good Day to Die Hard (2013) **10.55** Gogglebox **1.00** Rude Tube **2.05** Gogglebox **3.00** Celebs Go Dating **Film4**
12.35 Mirror Mirror (2012) **2.50** Spy Kids 4: All the Time in the World (2011) **4.35** Carry On Nurse (1959) **6.20** Joy Interview Special **6.30** The Hunger Games: Mockingjay - Part 1 (2014) **8.50** The Wife Interview Special **9.00** In Bruges (2008) **11.10** An American Werewolf in London (1981)

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CHOICE



Jenna Coleman
The Cry (BBC1, 9pm)
Jenna Coleman stars in the first of a four-part dramatisation of Helen Fitzgerald's novel. Joanna travels with her partner Alistair and their baby son to Australia, where Alistair hopes to campaign for custody of his teenage daughter from a previous marriage. Their journey ends in tragedy when the child goes missing, with devastating psychological repercussions for the distraught mother. With Ewen Leslie, Stella Gonet, Markella Kavenagh and Asher Keddie.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **8.25** Match of the Day. (R) **10.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **11.00** Regional Programme. **11.30** Sunday Morning Live. **12.30** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.15** Points of View. **2.30** Songs of Praise. **3.05** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.05** Pointless Celebrities. (R) **5.00** Impossible Celebrities. **5.50** BBC News.
6.05 Regional Programme.
6.15 **Countryfile**. Sean Fletcher visits a habitat creation project in Herefordshire, which is home to otters, water rail, bitterns and grass snakes. Margherita Taylor visits an orchard where a popular medieval drink is being revived, Matt Baker takes a look ahead to this year's Children in Need Rumble, and Tom Heap reports on drug gangs targeting vulnerable rural children. Plus, John Craven announces the winner of this year's photographic competition. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
7.15 **Strictly Come Dancing: The Results**. Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the results of last night's show, revealing which of the couples will be first to leave the contest. Featuring a performance by George Ezra.
8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**. A return visit to the historic Abney Pumping station in Leicester, where playwright Joe Orton's sister brings in the typewriter on which he wrote some of his most important scripts.
9.00 **The Cry**. New series. Dramatisation of Helen Fitzgerald's novel about a mother dealing with the psychological repercussions of her child going missing. Starring Jenna Coleman.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 **Match of the Day 2**. Mark Chapman reviews Sunday's Premier League action, featuring highlights of the one and only game of the day – Cardiff City v Burnley at the Cardiff City Stadium.
11.15 **The Women's Football Show**. A look at the biggest issues in the women's game, focusing on matters at both club and international level.
11.50 **Film: You Again**. (2010) **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.35** BBC News.

BBC2

6.05 Great British Menu. (R) **6.35** Great British Menu. (R) **7.05** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.05** Countryfile. (R) **9.00** The Beecroft Garden. (R) **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.00** Athletics: Great Scottish Run. **1.45** Cycling: Road World Championships. The climax to the elite men's road race in Austria. **4.30** Super Small Animals. (R) **5.30** Grammar Schools: Who Will Get In? (R)
6.30 **Before Grenfell: A Hidden History**. The residents of Kensington and the community around Grenfell Tower tell the story, 150 years in the making, of how their borough became the most unequal place in Britain. Those local to the area share their memories of the dramatic events that shaped their community – from exploitation by notorious landlord Peter Rachman in the 1950s, to the first Notting Hill race riots, and the construction of Grenfell Tower in the 1970s. This is the untold story of a unique part of west London, revealing how its past has shaped its present. Narrated by Danny John-Jules. (R)
7.30 **Golf: Ryder Cup Highlights**. Eilidh Barbour presents action from day three of the 42nd Ryder Cup from the Albatros Course of Le Golf National near Paris, where Europe took on USA. With commentary from Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Ned Michaels.
9.30 **Mock the Week**. (R)
10.00 **Motherland**. Julia's child care problems are solved after she finds the perfect nanny, but her friendship with Liz is strained, and Amanda is keeping a low profile. Last in the series. (R)
10.30 **No Activity**. New series. Stokes and Hendy are assigned to stake out a house belonging to a couple who have been abducted – unaware the kidnappers are holding them in the basement.
10.55 **No Activity**. Neddy tries to explain rugby to Steve after a scandalous video of a player at a post-match party goes viral. Outside in the car, Stokes celebrates his birthday.
11.20 **The Mighty Redcar**. Tory activist Jade battles to win the hearts and minds of the predominantly Labour town. Last in the series. (R)
12.05 Billion Dollar Deals and How They Changed Your World. (R) **1.05** Sign Zone: Question Time. (R) **2.05** Holby City. (R) **3.00** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dana. **6.10** Super 4. (R) **6.25** Super 4. (R) **6.35** Make It Pop. (R) **6.55** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.00** Cut the Rope: Om Nom Stories. **7.05** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.15** Mr Bean: The Animated Series. (R) **7.30** ToonMarty. (R) **7.40** ToonMarty. (R) **7.55** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.25** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.55** The Haunted Hathaways. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Countrywise. (R) **9.55** Emmerdale 1918. (R) **10.20** Midsomer Murders. (R) **12.15** WOS Wrestling. (R) **1.15** ITV News: Weather. (R) **1.30** The X Factor. (R) **3.00** Back to Mine. **3.30** Celebrity Tipping Point. (R) **4.30** The Chase. (R) **5.30** Queen of the World. (R)
6.30 **ITV News: Weather**.
6.45 **Regional Programme: Weather**.
7.00 **5 Gold Rings**. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which a married couple and two work colleagues compete to answer visual questions by placing rings on an LED floor in five increasingly difficult stages.
8.00 **The X Factor**. Dermot O'Leary hosts the second of the three Six Chair Challenge episodes, in which the acts perform individually before the judges choose who will be selected for the next stage. However, even if a contender is selected to go through to the next stage, the judges are free to change their minds and ditch them if a more promising alternative comes along later in the show.
9.00 **Vanity Fair**. Becky works out how to live well on nothing a year, but flies too high as she joins the dizzy ranks of lords, ladies and kings.
10.05 **The Imitation Game**. Alexander Armstrong hosts the impressions-based panel show, with Rory Bremner, Debra Stephenson, Jess Robinson and Lewis Macleod performing celebrity fairy tales.
10.40 **ITV News: Weather**.
11.05 **Joanna Lumley's Silk Road Adventure**. Joanna travels to the Islamic Republic of Iran, where she meets many people eager to share the culture and innovations of the Persian civilisation. (R)
12.00 Strangers. Jonah realises Megan was involved with Hong Kong's most dangerous players. (R) **12.50** Jackpot247. Interactive gaming. **3.00** Motorsport UK. (R) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. Text-based information service. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. Guests air their differences. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.05 Motor Sport: British GT. **7.00** Motor Sport: FIA World Rallycross Championship. **8.00** Frasier. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Simpsons. (R) **12.55** The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** Film: Bend It Like Beckham. (2002) Comedy, starring Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley. **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.30** Location, Location, Location. (R) **5.25** Grand Designs. (R)
6.25 **Channel 4 News**.
6.45 **Formula 1: Russian Grand Prix Highlights**. Steve Jones and David Coulthard present action from the 16th round of the season at the Sochi Autodrom. Lewis Hamilton went into this race with a 40-point lead in the standings over Sebastian Vettel, having won seven races so far this season, including four of the last five.
9.00 **Celebrity Island with Bear Grylls**. After two weeks on the island, three members of the team have already been driven to quit by the lack of food and brutal weather conditions. Pete Wicks has persuaded the remaining castaways to refrain from killing land animals for food, and they have survived on a diet of fish and yucca. However, they are struggling to catch any fish, and the group's resolve is sorely tested when a wild pig comes close to the camp. The desperate islanders are forced into a decision that sends shockwaves through the camp.
10.00 **The Circle**. Series assessing the impact of social media, in which individuals from all walks of life compete in a popularity contest to win up to £50,000.
11.00 **8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown**. Jimmy Carr hosts the comedy panel show's version of the words-and-numbers quiz, with Sean Lock and Sara Pascoe taking on Jon Richardson and Josh Widdicombe. (R)
12.00 **Film: Before I Go to Sleep**. (2014) Thriller, starring Nicole Kidman. **1.35** George Clarke's Amazing Houseboats. George Clarke recalls some of his favourite houseboat projects. (R) **2.30** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. The host helps a Portsmouth duo modernise their living room. (R) **3.25** Grand Designs New Zealand. A pastor and his wife plan to build a house on a crumbling cliff. (R) **4.20** Vet on the Hill. (R) **5.15** Buy It Now. (R) **5.40** Jamie's Comfort Food. (R) **5.50** Countdown. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.10** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.15** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **6.30** Luo Bao Bei. (R) **6.40** Dobby Dragon. (R) **6.50** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.00** Thomas & Friends. (R) **7.15** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.25** Rusty Rivets. (R) **7.40** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **7.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.05** Paw Patrol. (R) **8.25** Nella the Princess Knight. **8.45** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.00** Pirata & Capitano. (R) **9.15** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **9.30** Fiogals. (R) **9.50** Paw Patrol. (R) **10.00** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **10.20** Rise of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Cruising with Jane McDonald. (R) **10.45** Monkeys Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.35** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Friends. (R) **1.00** Friends. (R) **1.30** Friends. (R) **2.00** Friends. (R) **2.30** Friends. (R) **3.00** Friends. (R) **3.30** Friends. (R) **4.00** Friends. (R) **4.25** Friends. (R) **4.55** Friends. (R) **5.25** Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) Comedy, starring Jim Carrey.
6.50 **Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**. (1991) An English nobleman returns home from the crusades to find his father has been murdered and the local people are repressed by the tyrannical rule of the Sheriff of Nottingham. Branded an outlaw, he recruits a group of bandits to fight for justice and protect the downtrodden. Action adventure, starring Kevin Costner, Alan Rickman, Morgan Freeman and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio. Edited for language and violence.
7.50 **5 News Update**.
7.55 **Film: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves**. (1991) Concluded.
9.55 **5 News Weekend**.
10.00 **Big Brother**. Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.
11.30 **Film: The Bunker List**. (2007) Two terminally ill men plan to enjoy the time they have left by working through a list of things they have always wanted to do. Comedy, starring Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman.
1.15 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Ben Fogle: New Lives in the Wild. (R) **4.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.45** Wildlife SOS. (R) **5.10** House Doctor. (R) **5.35** Great Scientists. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Four
7.00 Engineering Giants: Jumbo Jet Strip-Down **8.00** James May's Cars of the People **9.00** Farther and Sun: A Dyslexic Road Trip **10.00** Feud: Bette and Joan **11.45** The Last Explorers **12.45** Treasures of Ancient Greece **1.45** Pappano's Classical Voices **2.45** James May's Cars of the People **3.45** Close
ITV2
11.45 The X Factor **1.15** You've Been Framed! Gold **1.45** Film: Twister (1996) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** Film: Twister (1996) **4.00** Film: The LEGO Movie (2014) **5.05** FYI Daily **5.10** Film: The LEGO Movie (2014) **6.00** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **7.00** FYI Daily **7.05** Film: Despicable Me 2 (2013) **8.00** Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **9.00** FYI Daily **9.05** Film: The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift (2006) **10.00** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **12.30** The Cleveland Show **12.55** Ghosted **1.25** Release the Hounds: Famous & Freaked **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.55 Film: Carry On Girls (1973) **2.40** Film: Columbo: Sex and the Married Detective (1989) **4.40** Foyle's War **9.00** Lewis **11.30** Wire in the Blood **1.10** A Touch of Frost **3.00** Road to Avonlea **4.35** Murder, She Wrote **5.30** ITV3 Nightscreen
ITV4
6.30 Football's Greatest: Johan Cruyff **6.50** Pawn Stars **7.20** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **8.20** FYI Daily **8.25** Film: Police Academy 3: Back in Training (1986) **9.00** Film: The Blues Brothers (1980) **10.00** FYI Daily **10.05** Film: The Blues Brothers (1980) **11.40** River Monsters **12.45** BRDC Formula 3 Highlights **1.45** The Avengers **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.25** Young Sheldon **1.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.55** Film: Ice Age: The Meltdown (2006) **6.45** Film: Back to the Future Part III (1990) **9.00** Krypton **11.00** The Inbetweeners **12.05** The Big Bang Theory **1.05** Krypton **2.55** Rude Tube **3.20** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 The House of Magic (2013) **12.45** Anna and the King (1999) **3.35** Speed 2: Cruise Control (1997) **6.00** Star Trek Into Darkness Interview Special **6.10** The Abyss (1989) **9.00** Taken 2 (2012) **10.50** The Watch (2012) **12.55** A Private Function (1984) **2.55** Close

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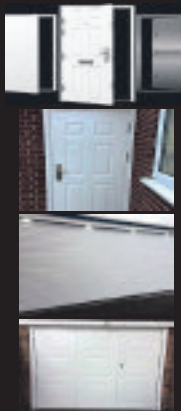
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The important bit.
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Music or voice over?

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1

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2

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3

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FOR ALL RAILWAY COLLECTIONS

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SPECTRUM GAMES wanted plus
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To check that anyone
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It is an offence under the Gas
Safety (Installation and Use)
Regulations 1998 to carry out
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**4
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Pets Corner

NOTICE TO READERS
Please be aware that when
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some simple guidelines you
can follow to ensure that you
are not purchasing from a
Puppy Farmer:

1. Try to ensure you visit the
puppy whilst it is still with it's
Mother.
 2. Do not arrange to collect a
puppy from any other location
than that of the breeder.
 3. Ensure that you are given
any KC documentation, if
pedigree.
- Whilst Midland News
Association publications take
great care to avoid publication
of advertisements from Puppy
Farmers we cannot accept any
liability should readers
purchase from this kind of
establishment.

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rabbits needing homes, also one
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**6
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40ft x 10.

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Sited on select park, Coven
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MONDAY**

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experienced sales team
on 01902 31 31 31

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- Any house, any condition

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We will buy your house fast!

Free Valuation? Yes! Any House? Yes!
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No Fees? Yes! Any Condition? Yes!

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7

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CARE ASSISTANTS 35hrs pw. qual-
ifications not essential, full training
given. Must be flexible. Email CV
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lapalhouse.co.uk or call and collect
application from Lapal House, Lapal
Lane South, Halesowen, B62 0ES.
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SOURCE: The Newspaper Society - Consumer Catalyst 2014

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3
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ONLY
£475



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8

Motoring

Cars Over £1500



FORD FIESTA ZETEC 5DR
2010. 83,000 miles.
FSH
One owner from new, superb condition.
£3,495.
01902 744023.

MUST BE SEEN

MERCEDES A170 ELEGANCE
2006, 5dr, petrol, gold, black leather, 71k miles, service history, one lady owner, MOT July 2019.
£1,750
07979 655590.

Cars Over £1500



MERCEDES E320 CDI AVANTGARDE
2003, 99k miles, Met Grey, abs, EW, EM, air con, long service history, auto, CL, CC, power steering, diesel, sunroof, alloys, CD player, leather interior.
£2,850.
01384 401209 / 07739 837137



MINI COOPER SD PACEMAN
13 Plate, white, Auto, 44K, leather, MoT, £9,450.
07973 795933.

Cars Over £1500



VW BEETLE V5 SPORT
2003, 12 months MoT, low mileage
FSH, new clutch and fly wheel, bilstine shocks, elba springs, ABT sportline exhaust, introduction kit, Kersher spoiler, real head turner, first to see will buy.
£3,500.
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Cars Under £1500



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07 plate.
Lady owner 53,000 miles
Lovely condition.
Long MoT, History.
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01384 292350
07717317809

Cars Under £1500



FORD FIESTA 1.4
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£825.
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07771 428793.

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NISSAN MICRA 1.2.
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Good condition. Very good runner.
£875 ono.
07864 842076.

IDEAL FIRST CAR

RENAULT CLIO
1.2, black, excellent runner, MoT till Feb 2019, FSH, sun roof,
good condition inside and out.
£700.
01384 251076. 07772 922510.



HONDA CIVIC 1.4 PETROL
56 plate
Red, 5dr.
MoT March 2019, very good runner.
Any inspection welcome.
£1,450.
07808 215726 or 07740 305921.



FORD FIESTA CLIMATE 1.25
55 Plate, 70,000 miles, digital radio, one owner,
£1,000 ono
07791759535

BARGAIN

SUZUKI LIANA
2005, manual, petrol, long MoT, FSH, new battery, CD player,
very clean inside and out.
£895.
07950 398750.



VW BEETLE CONVERTIBLE
03 reg, 1400, long MoT, was CAT D but now perfect runner, very good bodywork.
£825 ono.
07972 169554.



VW POLO 1.0E
3dr, manual, petrol, May 2000 reg, green, 10 months MoT, only 87k, very economical, good condition, ideal first car.
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Low mileage

Superb condition

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£100 Minimum Guaranteed
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Scrap & MOT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered
Spares Always Available
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0121 557 0400.
Oldbury Area.

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01902 334541.

alan reed cars

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Top prices paid. HP settled.
Buyer could call:
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9

Local Information

Public Notices

LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES

For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on
01902 319694

or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk

(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

ASH Group (UK) Ltd of Redwither Road, Wrexham Industrial Estate, Wrexham, LL13 9RD is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep 10 goods vehicles and 5 trailers at 23 Station Road, Rowley Regis, West Midlands, B65 0JY

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

01902 317878



Classified Ads

10
Personals

Personal

"But who knows maybe we'll be perfect for each other" give Attitude a chance to see if they can help you find a friend who may turn into a partner.
Ring us on
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a good place to start.

GENUINE, CARING, SLIM
Attractive Man, 55.
Car owner. Solvent.
GSOH. WLTM. Genuine lady 40-60 for evenings, days out and companionship.
Genuine replies only please.
Box Number P21321
Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton. WV1 1ES.



RESPECTABLE MALE 60'S
GSOH, no ties, like countryside and places of interest, seeks nice lady for friendship/relationship.
Box Number P21338
Express and Star Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

BROADCAST YOUR BUSINESS

WITH THE COMPLETE PRODUCTION OF A COMPELLING VIDEO



1. PRE-PRODUCTION PLANNING

Where we find out about you!

2. ON-LOCATION RECORDING

The important bit.

3. AUDIO PRODUCTION

Music or voice over?

4. POST PRODUCTION

Where the finishing touches happen.

5. VIDEO ADVERTISING

Want even more exposure?

CALL 01902 319730

MNA DIGITAL

Source: www.mnadigital.co.uk/video-advertising

SELL IT FAST SELL IT LOCAL

01902 317878
Classified Ads





How to improve a car's performance by 70%

The effectiveness consultancy Benchmarking recently analysed what happens when companies include press advertising in their media mix.

They looked at more than 500 econometric models, covering a five-year period and, as the table here shows, they found that adding newspapers dramatically increases the effectiveness of other media.

In the automotive sector they reviewed companies that ranged from the big spending German goliaths of the industry to medium sized independent carmakers.

And they discovered that by adding newspaper advertising to their campaigns, they cranked up their effectiveness by over 70%.

Increased effectiveness using newspapers

Retail	Automotive	Finance
2.8x	1.7x	5.7x

So, whatever the size your business or budget, get motoring into newspapers.

For the full story and more details:
newsworks.org.uk/effectiveness



There will be a host of black accents

A fresh tease for the new Kodiaq

Another day, another teaser for the Skoda Kodiaq vRS – with the performance-orientated SUV set to debut at next month's Paris Motor Show.

Having trickled a few details and images into the public domain in recent months, the Czech firm has revealed some more information about the car before it's seen in full.

The Kodiaq vRS will be distinguishable from the rest of the SUV's range thanks to a host of black accents – namely the grille, roof rails, window frames and wing mirrors. Other vRS hallmarks include two exhaust pipes at the back, along with a red reflector covering the width of the Kodiaq.

Adding to the racier look is a set of 20-inch alloy wheels, housing 17-inch brake discs complete with red callipers.

The icing on the cake? A newly designed vRS logo, which sees the 'v' now finished in red, rather than the chrome or green of previous machines to wear the badge. Skoda says this 'symbolises the sportiness and power of the vRS family', with the badge on the front grille and at the rear of the car.

Previously revealed information includes its 2.0-litre twin-turbocharged diesel engine, which will send 236bhp to all four wheels. No word yet on what that means for performance, but Nurburgring expert Sabine Schmitz managed to take a prototype around the 12.9-mile 'Green Hell' in 9:29.84 – a lap record for seven-seat cars.

The Skoda Kodiaq vRS will be revealed in full at the Paris Motor Show, taking place from October 4 to 14. Expect to hear more on pricing, specifications and availability following that.

Toyota celebrates 20 years of the Yaris



The Yaris Y20 has a classic gold colour

Toyota is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its European best-selling hatchback the Yaris with a new special edition – the Y20.

Debuting as part of a revised range for the third-generation hatchback, the Yaris Y20 brings a classic gold colour that appeared on the first car to the new machine but gives it a modern twist with a bi-tone dark grey roof.

That hue will be limited to 1,998 units – marking the Yaris's 1998 debut – but more colours will follow, namely silver, white or black, each with a bi-tone roof.

A number of grey highlights will also help to distinguish the Y20 – including on the 16-inch alloy wheels, side mouldings, front grille, door mirror casings and fog light surrounds.

The theme continues inside, with a dark grey centre console and steering wheel inserts, along with a new check-patterned fabric upholstery. Satin chrome air vents feature too, as do black floor mats with silver edging.

The icing on the cake is Y20 badging at the rear of the car and on the instrument panel.

There is no word yet on powertrain options, but expect the trim to be available for both the 1.5-litre petrol option and its hybrid sibling.

The Toyota Yaris Y20 will join the GR Sport to swell the hatchback's range, with the latter taking inspiration from the limited-run GRMN hot hatch with a number of racy additions.

Dacia Duster wins best off-roader in new car awards

By Sharon Walters

The all-new Dacia Duster has been crowned Best Off-Roader by the Parkers team as part of its New Car Awards 2019, with the Duster praised as "the perfect choice" for the award.

The judges recognised the off-road capabilities of the Duster as being unstoppable in some of the world's most hostile environments with the new model only building on this toughness.

The new Duster was also praised as being more refined and better to drive, with a higher quality interior than before, all at an affordable price.

Speaking on the win for the new Duster, Parkers editor, Keith Adams said: "The Dacia Duster really is all things to all people, and clear proof that Dacia is a car manufacturer on the move.

"Low-cost PCP and keen list prices might drive people into showrooms for this family SUV with great off-road potential, but the car's all-round excellence are what will have them returning time and time again."

Reflect

The Parkers New Car Awards moves into its second year after a successful launch last year. The categories are designed to reflect the requirements of Britain's car-buying public with the winners all chosen based on the buying habits of the website's 2.9+ million users actively involved in the buying process.

The winning cars have been tested rigorously by the Parkers.co.uk team, which judged them on a combination of cost per month, value, quality, excellence and fitness for purpose.

Commenting on the latest award win for Dacia, Louise O'Sullivan, Head of Dacia UK said: "We're incredibly pleased that the Duster has won the first ever Parkers Best Off-Roader award.

"Just a few months after the car went on sale here in the UK it's great to see that the all-new Duster is proving as popular with the industry as the previous model, by offering an unbeatable combination of ruggedness, quality and value for money."

The new Duster went on sale in the UK earlier this year, starting at £9,995, with a host of new improvements over the previous model.

Every single body panel on the car is new, with a fully revised interior for better quality and comfort as well as featuring many new technologies and safety features never before available on the Dacia range.

To find out more about the All-New Dacia Duster visit: dacia.co.uk/vehicles/our-range/all-new-duster.html.



The new Duster was also praised as being more refined and better to drive



Every single body panel on the car is new, with a fully revised interior

Experts say learn from those 'oops factor' moments and cut your risk on the road

Road safety and breakdown organisation GEM Motoring Assist is encouraging drivers to reflect on the dangerous moments they have experienced at the wheel, to reduce the risks they face on future road journeys.

GEM road safety officer Neil Worth comments: "We are all familiar with those 'oops factor' moments of danger, where no harm was actually done but where we came close to disaster."

"We're encouraging drivers to set aside time thinking about their own particular 'oops factor' moments. But rather than dwell on the danger and risk being distracted, wait until the end of a journey and set aside a few moments to think about why it happened.

"That short period of reflection may be all you need to identify the reason, and to adapt your observation or concentration techniques to prevent a similar situation happening again."

GEM has produced the following four simple tips to reduce risk for drivers:

Think about risk on journeys. This risk could come from a dangerous stretch of

road, from adverse weather, an unwise choice of speed or from a lack of focus on the driving task.

Expect the unexpected. This is especially true on familiar stretches of road. Keep your guard up, anticipate what could happen and stay ahead of the situation, rather than having to react urgently.

Risk

Eliminate the word 'suddenly' from your driving vocabulary. By identifying all the possible areas of risk, you can adapt and update your speed and position to keep yourself away from trouble.

Learn from mistakes. You're sure to be familiar with the 'oops factor'; the realisation that a risky moment just happened. Take time later to think about why that moment happened. Did you fail to see another vehicle? Did you misjudge distance or speed? Did we gamble with a changing traffic light? Most important, what could you do differently next time to reduce the risk?

"We can minimise the risks we face – and

the risks we pose to others," adds Neil Worth.

"Good observation and anticipation mean we can spot potential problems early and look for a safe resolution of a situation in its early stages. In a sense we're doing other drivers' work for them – and we shouldn't expect to be thanked for it. Our satisfaction can come in knowing that we made a positive contribution to ensuring a safer journey.

"Experience should warn us of situations where risk is increased: for example, if it's a wet day, we know we'll take longer to stop. More to the point, we can expect to have to make allowances for others who may be less experienced or who don't connect wet weather with greater risk.

"Taking time to assess any 'near misses' we might have experienced – those moments during a journey where we raised an eyebrow, drew in breath, cursed another driver, or felt our hearts miss a beat – can be very helpful in reducing risk.

"Most of us are poor at accepting blame. But we're trying to keep blame out of the equation and adopt the simple priority of



staying safe, and helping others stay safe, too.

"By recognising the situations that may lead to greater danger, and learning from those 'oops factor' moments, we can actively reduce risk, both to ourselves and to those around us."



Red Dragons – Wolverhampton Sunday League Cup back in 1971



All smiles – celebrations after the Vin Boden Cup Final

Doreen adds fun but now for the serious challenge

SPORTING FEATURE

By Nick Elwell

THERE was plenty of laughter as the Wolverhampton Sunday League celebrated its 60th anniversary in style.

The Queen of the Black Country, Doreen Tipton, proved a smash hit on a night to remember for the league's hard-working committee.

Around 150 former players, officials and guests were kept entertained by Doreen's, (Gill Jordan to give her her real name), unique brand of humour with chairman Terry Shinton revealing it was a casual remark from his sister Tina that planted the idea of adding a female touch to proceedings.

"We had Ian 'Sludge' Lees at the previous event, so we were thinking along the same lines, a Black Country comedian because that's what we are, really, a Black Country league," said Shinton. "And Gill, sorry Doreen, was brilliant. She was great and stayed around afterwards to have numerous pictures taken."

"There was some good work by all the committee to organise the evening. Everybody mucked in and got things done and it was great to see it turn out to be such a success."

Battling

And after toasting their latest milestone well into the night in the Hayward Suite at Molineux, the league's committee are now turning their attentions to the serious issue of attracting new sides to sign up for Sunday morning action.

Leagues across the country are battling against falling participation numbers and the Wolverhampton Sunday is no different.

In recent years the area has seen the Dudley & Cradley Heath League and the Wolverhampton Combination, which played its games on Saturdays both fold, while the Bilston Junior Youth League has also blown its final whistle.

In its heyday the Wolverhampton Sunday League boasted 120 clubs and even had a waiting list. This season saw 61 teams sign up for action across five divisions.

But Shinton, who has been involved with the league for 40 years, and fellow committee members – Simon Perks, Phil Reade, Ian Ebbelwhite, Wayne Harrison, Eddie Yardley, Howard Morris and Phil Taylor – are ready to tackle the challenge head on. They are hop-

"At one time we didn't have any money but now we have money but can't get the teams. That's a concern for us going forward. We are half the size we used to be. We had 120 sides at one point and a waiting list. We started this season with 61"

ing to introduce a youth league in a bid to provide a route through to senior football.

"We are very proud to celebrate 60 years," said Shinton. "It's a great achievement and one we should be proud of. I have been involved with the league for 40 years, refereeing and then on the committee as treasurer and then, for the last four years, chairman."

"At one time we didn't have any money but now we have money but can't get the teams. That's a concern for us going forward."

"We are half the size we used to be. We had 120 sides at one point and a waiting list. We started this season with 61. That's the way things have changed. There is no Saturday morning football in Wolverhampton anymore. Who would have thought that would happen?"

"The Bilston League had 14 divisions a few years ago and now the league has finished."

"For this season we tried to introduce a women's league and a veterans' league but we had no response to either. It's the same for leagues all over the country. Every league is suffering and losing teams."

"But we are a very well-run league and we have always had a good committee. And we are up for the challenge and the fight to get more people playing local

league football. One of the things we are looking at is introducing a youth league next season."

"We have contacted Birmingham County FA and they have given us permission to do it. Ideally we would like teams at under-13, 14, 15 and 16 and then they can go to open age football. We have got to start promoting it and see what interest we can generate."

Shinton believes the league has plenty to offer and he is open to any suggestions on how to check the problem of falling playing numbers.

"The league has some of the best facilities in the country," he added. "The park facilities in the area are brilliant."

"Some of the Birmingham Leagues don't have changing rooms, players still have to change in their cars on the car parks."

"We don't let sides play without changing rooms and showers. That side of things is set up really well."

"We have also got plenty of referees. A few years back we got to the stage where we had enough referees to put neutral linesmen on the line in the Premier Division. We look after our referees really well."

Involved

"As a committee we are constantly looking at new ways of getting people involved and teams on board," he added.

"At a recent league meeting we asked clubs to put suggestions forward and if they want to they can come to our next committee meeting and talk through their ideas."

"We are open to any ideas and we will try to put them into action if we think they are good enough."

"But it's not just football that's losing numbers. We sit on the Wolverhampton Sports Council and other sports are suffering. The athletics club start losing people when they reach 18 and it's the same with hockey clubs."

Shinton's determination to build on the league's rich history is obvious and hopefully there will be plenty more years of action on the parks in and around Wolverhampton.

"It's not all doom and gloom, the commitment is there from all our committee," he said.

"And as long as I have got breath, I will be fighting to get more teams on board to keep the league going," he added.



Chairman Terry Shinton with special guest Doreen Tipton



A winning team – the Wolverhampton Sunday League's committee

Edgbaston grows for popular run of cricket

EDGBASTON is to add 840 temporary seats to its capacity for next summer's first Ashes Test against Australia, as well as matches in the World Cup and the domestic Twenty20 Blast Finals Day.

WITH ticket sales for next summer's Specsavers Ashes Test match increased by 35 per cent in the pre-sale window in comparison Edgbaston's last Test meeting between England and Australia in 2015, the Birmingham venue is working with Arena Seating to install a temporary stand for use across all days.

Gareth Roberts, commercial director at Edgbaston, said: "There's never been a bigger programme of cricket in Birmingham than what's coming in 2019, with the Ashes, ICC Cricket World Cup and Finals Day all coming to Edgbaston."

"We're very proud to bring the biggest fixtures in the game to Birmingham and, in response to the initial demand that we've seen, we wanted to give more spectators an opportunity to secure tickets for these games."



George Elokobi

Wolves duo to make debut on microphone

GEORGE ELOKOBI and Matt Jarvis are heading back to Wolverhampton – to make their debut on a microphone! The popular former Wolves duo will join Chris Iwelumo, who has carved out a successful media career since retirement, as guests at the latest event for Molineux fans at the Cleveland Arms.

Hosted by former goalkeeper Matt Murray, it takes place on Thursday, November 29 and all VIP packages have already been sold. Only standard tickets at £10 remain.

Murray said: "George and Matt haven't done this kind of thing before but they said yes straight away when they were asked to come along. All three lads are really looking forward to meeting the Wolves fans again."

"These are great nights because it brings the fans close to the players and everyone goes away having had a really enjoyable time listening to the lads and their stories from their career and in particular their time with Wolves."

Tickets are available at the Stow Heath Lane venue, or call 01902 451021.



Matt Jarvis



Stour still possess that FA Cup magic

Stourbridge 3 Leamington 2
KAIMAN Anderson conjured up a stoppage-time winner as the Glassboys continued their love affair with the FA Cup.

A replay looked the likely outcome after National League side Leamington came from 2-0 down to level.

But in true FA Cup fashion, Stourbridge produced a last-gasp stunner when substitute Chekaine Steele whipped in an inch-perfect cross with his first touch of the ball for Anderson to convert and send the home support into raptures.

Glassboys boss Gary Hackett admitted afterwards: "At 2-2, I would have taken a replay, but we dug deep and the one thing we've proved is that we know how to win Cup ties!"

Glassboys were gifted the lead on 48 minutes when Jack Lane turned a Robbie Thompson-Brown cross into his own net. Stourbridge nabbed a second goal on 55 minutes when goalkeeper Tony Breddon bravely came off his line to block the ball at Thompson-Brown's feet, but could only watch in horror as the ball rebounded back out to Leon Broadhurst, who fired back home from fully 35 yards.

Leamington refused to lie down, however. Matt Stenson slotted home from a corner on 82 minutes and the same player levelled for the Brakes after James Wren had saved Jamie Hood's header. But Anderson had the last word.

Glassboys, who face a home tie against Kidderminster in the next round on October 6, are at home to Needham Market on Saturday, 3pm.

Yeltz given football lesson as Trinity make Cup progress

Halesowen 0 Gainsborough Trinity 3
HALESOWEN were given a harsh footballing lesson as high-flying Northern Premier League outfit Gainsborough coasted to victory in the FA Cup Second Qualifying Round.

Trinity dominated against the limp hosts and will collect £9,000 in prize money.

Trinity made their dominance pay when Alex Simmons' corner was headed home by Shane Clarke in the six-yard box after 24 minutes.

The visitors added two further goals with some comfort in a one-sided second period.

The lead was doubled when man of the match Simmons was given too much time to deliver a lovely cross from the right for Ashley Worsfield to place a 54th minute header into the top corner. Dan Platt kept out further efforts from Damian Reeves and Alex Byrne before Gainsborough made it 3-0 in the 74th minute with an individual, but far too easy goal from Simmons.

Yeltz return to league action on Saturday with a visit to Bedworth United.

Baggies sets sights on target man Archer



Lewis Archer

ALBION keeping tabs on Hednesford Town star Lewis Archer as they hope to unearth the next non-league gem.

Attacker Archer has been impressive for the Pitmen in the Northern Premier this season and netted twice in Saturday's 3-1 FA Cup victory at Rugby Town.

However, Archer is under contract with the Pitmen and they are understood to have turned down the Baggies' bid to take him on trial.

It is believed the Keys Park side want

a fee for the highly-rated 20-year-old forward. Hednesford have a history of producing high-quality players - Arsenal's Cohen Bramall, Stoke's Ashley Williams, Wigan's Chey Dunkley and Blackpool's Curtis Tilt have all played for the club.

Meanwhile, former Baggies supremo Dan Ashworth is set to leave the Football Association to become technical director at Brighton & Hove Albion.

The 47-year-old, who spent five successful years at the Baggies as technical direc-

tor, has played a huge role in England's recent success at both junior and senior level. However, the Seagulls have opened negotiations with him the FA and he is now set for a return to club football.

The Baggies are close to appointing a new technical director themselves, with Nottingham Forest's Luke Dowling favourite to land the role. Dowling worked with Baggies boss Darren Moore five years ago when he was head of recruitment at Blackburn and Moore was coach.

Cockerton aims to make up 20 points

LLOYD Shelley put his injury problems behind to reclaim the Formula 600 class title leading the penultimate round at Darley Moor.

The Burntwood ace had been out of action - and work - for three months suffering with sciatica in his back.

But he showed no rustiness to claim two class victories as well as giving the 1000cc-powered bike a run for their money on his smaller 600cc machine.

Round six of the Darley Moor Motor Cycle Road Race Club Championship kept the marshals and officials busy due to several incidents and red-flags to stop racing whilst the track was made safe.

Ben Scranage took victory in the All-comers non-championship race, ahead of Shelley, who finished fourth in the first Peak Cup race and then enjoyed a race-long battle with Richard Elgin in the second to finish third. Shelley recorded victory in both Formula 600 races leaving him top of the standings.

Neil Lloyd's weekend, however, did not quite go to plan as he suffered fueling problems on his usually-reliable Honda RVF in the Lightweight class, but the Wednesbury rider still came away with two top-five finishes.

Anthony Eades and Wolverhampton's Keith Box lead Open Sidecars class, with Willenhall's McCauley Longmore top of the Formula 125 class. Dudley's Mark Cockerton has a lot to do to make up the 20 points needed to catch Chris Moore in the Classic 350 class. The final round is on October 7.

Manager goes in appointment row

CRADLEY Town are to appoint Chris Butts as manager after Ashley Carter resigned in a dispute with club bosses.

Causer claims Butts was appointed as a 'joint manager behind his back'. But chairman Trevor Thomas says he was brought in from Oldbury United to help turn around a poor start - but wasn't given an official role. Oldbury are now interviewing for their vacant post.

In the West Midlands Regional League on Saturday, Tividale beat Shawbury United 6-0, leaders Black Country Rangers drew 2-2 with Dudley Town, Dudley Sports lost 5-0 to Malvern and Smethwick Rangers lost 1-0 to Wellington.

DENNY DESPAIR IN TITLE FIGHT



Tyler Denny takes a hit from Reece Cartwright during the title bout in Walsall

TYLER Denny suffered English title heartbreak after a nasty facial injury put paid to his chances of earning national honours.

The 27 year-old Rowley Regis fighter suffered a first career defeat as his English middleweight title fight with Reece Cartwright, at Walsall Town Hall, was waved off.

Denny had a deep gash to his lip, and a badly swollen eye, when referee Terry O'Connor sought the views of the ringside doctor for a second time midway through the eighth round. Rightly, the fight was waved off giving Leeds' Cartwright the

belt. In truth, it was a deserved victory for Cartwright who boxed well behind an unorthodox jab and he would have surely been up on all three judges cards at the top of the stoppage.

Denny, the Midlands Area Champion, will come again no doubt but he faces a spell on the sidelines as he waits for his facial injuries to heal having received four stitches to his lip.

Blew

Wolverhampton debutant Conah Walker stole the show as far as the undercard to this BCB Promotions show was concerned.

The Ricky Hatton youngster blew away Jan Korec, securing a fourth round stoppage. Fellow



The Rowley Regis fighter shows off his injuries

debutant Troi 'The Hawk' Coleman impressed against the teak-tough Louis Van Poetsch. The Burntwood boxer won on points and can be pleased with his first foray into the pro game having made the switch from the unlicensed scene.

Fellow Burntwood boxer, Dani Hodges, made it two wins on the bounce since switching from kickboxing as she overcame Poland's Sonia Klos.

Walsall duo, James Beech Jr and Levi Ferguson, both cruised to victory over Simas Volosinas and Jordan Grannum respectively whilst Oldbury's Ryan 'Stewart' Davis bounced back from a first career defeat to beat Jamie Quinn over six rounds. BCB Promotions' are next in Walsall on October 27.

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